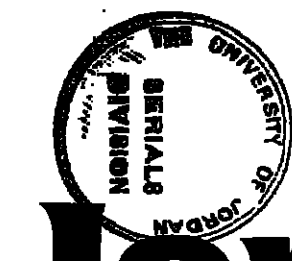


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### Saudi clerics in Iran urge uprising

NIKOSIA (R) — A group of Saudi clerics in the Iranian holy city of Qom has denounced the allied attack on Iran and urged Saudis to rise up against U.S. forces, the Iranian news agency IRNA reported. The Community of Hijaz Ulama said in a statement that the Iraqi people had fallen victim to a war started by the United States to defend its "puppet regimes" in the region, IRNA said. "The option for regional countries is clear and they should rise up for the sake of God to uproot the United States, or else would bear the ignominy of being trampled under the jackboots of occupiers," said the statement issued Tuesday. In Tehran, Iraqi dissidents and refugees marched from the British embassy to the old U.S. embassy complex to condemn the war launched by allied forces last Thursday. "The target of the aggression is in fact Islam and Muslim nations," IRNA quoted a speaker as telling the demonstrators who vowed to stand by the Iraqi nation.



# Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation

جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية، الرابطة

### Masri to visit Iran soon

AMMAN (J.T.) — Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri will visit Iran soon in a bid to coordinate efforts for an end to the Gulf war between American-led allied forces and Iraq, a senior official was quoted as saying Tuesday. Foreign Ministry Under-Secretary Mutasem Bubeisi, in comments carried by the Associated Press, said Mr. Masri contacted his Iranian counterpart Ali Akbar Velayati on Monday and "reiterated Jordan's position (on ending) the military action and (said it) willing to cooperate in all efforts aimed at finding a solution to the crisis." Mr. Velayati said Monday he was planning to visit several capitals in an effort to advance an initiative planned by the Non-Aligned Movement. Mr. Masri has held talks with several ambassadors in recent days to seek support for a ceasefire in the six-day-old Gulf war.

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## Scud ploughs into Tel Aviv, injures 60

### Israel says it needs no U.S. permission for retaliation

Combined agency dispatches

TEL AVIV — An Iraqi Scud missile eluded the U.S. Patriot anti-missile defence system and struck in the Tel Aviv area Tuesday, wounding at least 60 people and damaging several buildings, army officials said.

An Israeli minister vowed retaliation.

Israel Radio said some Iraqi missiles were intercepted by the Patriots but "despite that, apparently one Scud fell in the territory of Israel."

Brigadier General Nachman Shai said at least two Patriot missiles were fired at the incoming Scuds, which were the third wave to strike in Israel since Friday.

He told Israel Television that at least 60 people were injured, but exact figures on the number of wounded and dead, if any, were not immediately available.

Dr. Dan Michaeli, director of Ichilov Hospital, said at least some of the injured suffered cuts from glass similar to the 29

people wounded in the attacks that struck Friday and Saturday in the Tel Aviv and Haifa areas.

Shai told television interviewers that a woman had died of a heart attack in the missile attack.

Washington has sought to keep Israel out of the war in order not to undermine its anti-Iraq alliance of Western and Arab states.

"We said Israel retains the right to defend itself like any other country. We said Israel is not prepared to ensure such incidents without a response," Shai said.

He declined to speculate whether an Israeli attack was now inevitable.

Washington had rushed Patriot anti-missile rockets to Israel at the weekend following the first two attacks in an effort to protect the Jewish state.

"If we do change the policy we won't reveal it now," Shai told Israel Radio. "This is definitely an incident that makes us think, there is no doubt about it."

NBC correspondent Martin

Fletcher said in a live report from Tel Aviv that "there's a tremendous amount of damage, I would say something like three square blocks of houses have been really smashed."

"... There are a lot of people being carried out on stretchers," he said.

Emergency crews searched wreckage for residents caught in the third barrage.

More than an hour after the attack one of the wounded was carried out on a stretcher. The crowd standing in a cold rain appeared subdued rather than incensed.

Today at 8.37 p.m. a ground-to-ground Scud missile hit greater Tel Aviv. There were injuries taken to hospital. The missile was carrying conventional explosive warheads, an army communiqué said.

The latest raid was bound to increase domestic pressure on the government to strike back at Iraq.

Israeli sources said after the

(Continued on page 5)

## Iraqis said to have blown up some oil wells, tanks in Kuwait

Combined agency dispatches

AERIAL PHOTOS show that Iraq has blown up some oil wells and storage tanks in Kuwait, the U.S. military said Tuesday.

A spokesman for the U.S. military command in Riyadh said: "We do have evidence that Iraq is damaging or destroying some of these (Kuwaiti oil) facilities."

He added: "Aerial photography has shown that the Iraqis have blown up some oil wells and storage tanks at the Al Wafra facility."

He would not speculate on a possible reason.

But a Canadian military official said the Iraqis may have blown up the facilities so the dense smoke from burning oil would provide ground cover for troops under constant pounding from attacking allied combat aircraft.

Commodore Ken Summers, head of Canadian forces in the Gulf, also suggested that the oil installations may have been hit, perhaps accidentally, by allied forces trying to dislodge Iraqi troops.

### Expert warns of ecological disaster

AMMAN (J.T.) — Higher Council of Science and Technology Secretary General Abdullah Touqan Tuesday warned of an ecological disaster if oil wells were burned in the Gulf.

Dr. Touqan said the atmosphere would be polluted by carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide, sulphur dioxide and other poisonous gases. These pollutants are poisonous to human beings, vegetables, soil and water, Dr. Touqan noted.

He pointed out that a conference in London had found out that black clouds emanating from the burning oil will cover an area of five million square kilometres if oil wells remain on fire for one month.

He noted that the northwesterly wind contribute to spreading these gases to a wider area.

"There's a school of thought that burning the installations would provide cover for the Iraqis against allied air operations,"

said Comm. Summers. "The other option would be a direct hit by allied forces."

Meanwhile, oil industry officials with Kuwaiti contacts said the Iraqis blew up the installations to clear the area in anticipation of an allied ground attack.

Al Wafra is an oil field in southern Kuwait, about 32 to 48 kilometres west of the Saudi border town of Khafji. It is run by Texaco and the production is shared by Saudi Arabia and Kuwait.

Ali Juhail, an executive with Kuwait Oil Company now living in exile in Bahrain, said Al Wafra is a relatively small field. He speculated that Iraq had blown it up to show the U.S.-led coalition that it would not hesitate to ignite bigger facilities at Magwa and Burgan, two of the biggest oil fields in the world.

Some analysts have said that Iraq would torch the source of Kuwait's vast wealth before retreating from the country.

"If Iraq burns these, we all better leave the Gulf," he said, referring to the environmental

(Continued on page 5)

## Iraq accuses U.S. forces of hitting civilians, shrines

Combined agency dispatches

BAGHDAD ACCUSED the allied forces led by the U.S. of indiscriminate assaults on civilian targets and Muslim shrines and vowed revenge.

Iraqi military communiques listed 24 allied air raids from Monday night to Tuesday morning, including 20 attacks on residential targets in Baghdad and other cities. It said 18 allied warplanes or missiles have been shot down.

The target areas it listed for the third day in a row included military research, nuclear and chemical centres and a missile plant.

Repeatedly hammered Tuesday, according to Baghdad, was the strategic southern city of Basra, headquarters of Iraq's Kuwait garrison.

The two more captured fliers put on Iraqi Television brought to nine the number of allied airmen now in Iraqi hands.

The two were identified as air force Major Jeffrey Scott Tice and Captain Harry Michael Roberts. Two airmen by those names were listed by the Pentagon Sunday as missing in action.

The two were exhibited on Iraqi TV broadcast Monday

night and Tuesday, according to an Iranian TV report which showed film clips.

Baghdad Radio broadcast their remarks. One man could be heard to say that his F-16E, based in Doha, Qatar, had been shot down by a surface-to-air missile while on a mission to hit an oil refinery near Baghdad.

Iraq also said U.S. warplanes had hit the Shiite shrines of Najaf and Karbala, south of Baghdad.

"The blind malice of the imperialists and Zionists reached its peak when they deliberately fired their malicious shells at the sacred sites," said Iraqi radio.

Najaf contains the tomb of Ali, son-in-law of the Prophet Muhammad, who Shiites revere as his successor.

Karbala is the site of an historic battle in 680 A.D. in which Hussein, Ali's son, was killed. He is entombed there.

Also hit, according to the broadcast, was the historic St. Thomas Church, Iraq's oldest in the northern city of Nineveh, ancient capital of the Assyrian empire.

The radio predicted that "all the strength of holy anger will gather and turn into a combat and fedayeen (suicide comman-

do) force and add new elements to the increasing scope of suicide operations that will seek retribution..."

The Iraqi National Assembly called on Muslims worldwide "to wage holy war against all atheism and evil with all their faith," Baghdad Radio reported.

The allied command maintains that it was limiting the ferocious air war, which reached 10,000 sorties Tuesday, to military and other strategic targets.

There are several strategic sites near Karbala, just south-west is Babylon, the site of the Al Hillah missile production plant.

Just north of Al Hillah are the Al Iskandariyah military research and chemical weapons complex and the Al Musayyib chemical plant.

Iraq had reported that Babylon and Al Iskandariyah were two of the areas hit Tuesday.

The report of air raids of civilians targets also made by Baghdad Radio.

"Baghdad and other Iraqi cities were struck by missiles. Women, children and old people were killed. Even places of worship were not spared from

(Continued on page 5)



PROTEST: Women and children stage a demonstration in front of the American embassy in Amman Tuesday in protest against the U.S.-led

allied forces attack on Iraq and the Bush administration's policy in the Middle East (photo by Youssef Al 'Allan)

## Crown Prince: Gulf war could turn to be bitter battle to the end

WASHINGTON (Agencies) —

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan said Tuesday he doubted Iraqi President Saddam Hussein would "wave a white handkerchief" of surrender despite the massive bombing designed to push out Iraqi forces from Kuwait.

Prince Hassan also said from Amman in an ABC television interview that he doubted a negotiated settlement could be achieved, especially since the showing of allied prisoners-of-war (PoWs) on television, which Washington says was in violation of Geneva conventions.

"I think now with the mounting hostilities and particularly after the PoWs... it is very difficult to talk of a... cessation of hostilities," Prince Hassan said.

The Crown Prince said he now doubted any settlement was in the works because of bitterness on both sides of the fight.

"There's very little likelihood that anyone is going to stand up and wave a white handkerchief," he said. "I think they are absolutely committed to defending themselves, even if it appears to

be suicidal."

Prince Hassan said it was very difficult to talk of a cessation of hostilities. He noted that the non-aligned states were moving to achieve a ceasefire.

"Incidentally, we have asked all parties to cease hostilities," he said. "There is a lot of momentum from one side that you saw because of the staggering death toll — which we do not have any clear idea about — because of the damage, particularly the damage to St. Thomas Church in Ninawa, one of the first religious sites to be hit," he said.

Prince Hassan voiced Jordan's concern over the deteriorating situation in the Gulf "... particularly when you see that contacts with the outer world have been cut and when you hear about 7,000 sorties and over 50,000 tonnes of bombs, the equivalent of two Hiroshimas."

U.N. Security Council Resolution 678, Prince Hassan said, was intended to push Iraq out of Kuwait, "but today what we are seeing is a massive attack on Iraq, and still there is no movement."

"Unless the U.N. or any international body can move, I really do not see what alternative there is other than fighting to the bitter end," he said.

### House bloc condemns attack

The Liberal Bloc in the Lower House of Parliament Tuesday condemned the attack against Iraq by the U.S.-led forces saying that it was being carried out in the name of the United Nations.

In a statement issued Tuesday, the bloc said the "aggression aims at striking Arab and Muslim nations and controlling their resources."

The statement called for an end to the aggression against Iraq and the whole Arab Nation.

It warned of the rapidly escalating and massive hostilities and called for providing support for Iraq in its battle because "if we fail to confront the aggression now, we will lose our future and freedoms and our future will be linked with the will of those from striking at Iraq."

## 90% of allied strikes missed — Soviet general

Combined agency dispatches

THE INDEPENDENT Soviet news agency Interfax quoted an unidentified member of the Soviet general staff Tuesday as saying 90 per cent of all allied air strikes against Iraq had missed their targets.

Interfax quoted the officer as saying most Iraqi air bases and aircraft had not been hit in the massive bombardment and about 30 anti-aircraft systems remained intact. It said 11 anti-aircraft units had been knocked out.

"Ninety per cent of the strikes have not hit any targets," Interfax quoted the general as saying.

And the U.S. Defence Department conceded that it did not have "a fully accurate picture" of the success of U.S. and allied air strikes against Iraq.

It said the bad weather that was hampering the aerial bombardment of Iraq and Kuwait also makes damage assessment difficult.

"We don't have a lot of that information ourselves," Defence Department spokesman Pete Williams said in a Tuesday interview with Cable News Network (CNN).

Mr. Williams said there is not a huge gap between what the military is saying and what it knows about the damage. But he told the NBC broadcasting network, "We don't have a fully accurate picture."

Earlier, Pentagon officials said Iraq was using decoys to thwart allied efforts to wipe out Scud missile launchers. Congressional sources said the campaign

was being hampered by persistent hostile fire as well.

"They do use decoys and they use them well," Lieutenant General Kelly told reporters at a briefing. He said allied warplanes are working hard to take out the remaining launch sites, which Iraq has used to fire rockets into Israel and Saudi Arabia.

He said weather hampered the operation and the Iraqis' use of decoys was "somewhat of a problem. I can't quantify it."

In London, Britain's armed forces minister said Monday night that some of the mobile Iraqi Scud missile launchers thought to have been destroyed by the allies may in fact have been decoys.

"The actuality may be that when we thought we were taking out a Scud launcher, this was actually something made of cardboard and plywood, and wasn't actually a proper launcher," Archie Hamilton told Sky Television.

"This is always what happens in the fog of war and degree of confusion," he said.

According to the Soviet general quoted by Interfax, "a large part of the Iraqi aircraft and air bases have not been hit, despite all claims to the contrary. Air bases in Iraq are very well camouflaged and extremely hard to detect."

Interfax gave no details of the general's source or whether his assessment was shared by the general staff.

Most Iraqi weapons system were supplied by the Soviet Union and there has been some

(Continued on page 5)

## Libya, Morocco warn Turkey

Combined agency dispatches

AMERICAN planes struck Iraq again from a southern Turkish base Tuesday, but Baghdad continued to turn a blind eye to Turkey's Gulf war role.

But Libya and Morocco warned Turkey against becoming directly involved in the war against Iraq, the official Libyan news agency JANA reported.

JANA said Turkey's ambassador was summoned to the foreign ministry in Tripoli and told that Turkey's involvement would "greatly harm" its relations with Arab countries.

"The Turkish ambassador has been informed that giving military facilities means the possibility of expanding the scope of the war as far as the southern borders of the Soviet Union, thereby involving other countries in the confrontation," the JANA dispatch said.

Turkey last week authorised U.S. warplanes to use Turkish airbases for attacks on Iraq. U.S. aircraft have already made about 300 sorties out of the giant Incirlik base in southern Turkey since last Friday.

JANA said King Hassan of Morocco had telephoned Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi and that they had discussed the "opening of the Turkish front."

(Continued on page 5)

## Armitage visit said to reflect American concern for Jordan

By Rania Atalla in Washington

THE VISIT to Amman on Tuesday of a special envoy of U.S. President George Bush was primarily aimed at conveying American anxiety over the consequences to Jordan of any Israeli involvement in the Gulf war, according to American officials Tuesday.

His Majesty King Hussein met with Richard Armitage, a former assistant secretary of state, in Amman Tuesday. There was no official Jordanian comment on the meeting.

American officials said that an Israeli involvement in the conflict worries Washington not so much for fear of the collapse of the U.S.-led coalition against Iraq but more so for what such involvement and an expansion of the war could mean for Jordan.

The effects on Jordan of an Israeli involvement in the war is certainly "one of our fears," one State Department official told the Jordan Times Tuesday.

But, he stressed, there have been "no promises" made by the U.S. to Jordan during the visit by Mr. Armitage.

White House Press Secretary Martin Fitzwater said the visit by Mr. Armitage was not designed to send a message but rather aimed at closer consultations with the Jordanian government.

"We thought it would be helpful to have Rich go there and have a personal conversation" with King Hussein, Mr. Fitzwater said at a press briefing Tuesday morning.

Last week, President Bush said he would not write-off Jordan as an actor in the "serious diplomacy" that the U.S. had planned for the region once the Gulf war is over.

Mr. Fitzwater said Mr. Armitage was sent to Amman Sunday

in order to "consult with King Hussein personally" on the Gulf situation. The White House spokesman said the decision to send the special envoy was taken by the president on Saturday in Camp David, the same day King Hussein held a press conference in Amman in which he expressed grave concern over the situation in the Gulf. But Mr. Fitzwater did not confirm that the decision to send an emissary was prompted by the King's statement.

Prior to Mr. Armitage's visit, there had been lower-level discussions between American and Jordanian officials.

The State Department official said the prospects of a Middle East peace settlement would most certainly depend on the outcome of the Gulf war. He reiterated the Bush administration's position that a peace conference could be useful "at the appropriate time."

The official said he believed Israel was acting out of self-interest by not retaliating against the Iraqi Scud missile attack last week.

"Israel will first and foremost look to see what is best for the defence of Israel," he said in a phone interview. "Whatever retaliation would be done by the allies," he added.

He denied media reports that the U.S. had agreed to postpone an international peace conference in return for Israel's show of restraint. "We do not make those kinds of deals," he said.

The administration official said the U.S. was not ruling out a role in the peace efforts for the Soviets. "We are not trying to keep them out but we have felt that they ought to have relations with all sides and play a responsible role... We won't rule out a role for them," he said.

(Continued on page 5)

## Gorbachev urges world efforts to contain Gulf war

Combined agency dispatches

SOVIET PRESIDENT Mikhail Gorbachev said Tuesday international efforts should be stepped up to stop the spread of the Gulf war.

He told a Moscow news conference: "Events in the Gulf are clearly tending to escalate. That is very dangerous. We must do all we can to stop the conflict spreading."

Mr. Gorbachev, who has expressed support for the effort to force Iraq out of Kuwait, described the policies of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein as "irresponsible."

As the Gulf war continued for a sixth day Tuesday, at least eight nations said they were searching for diplomatic solutions for the conflict.

Earlier a Soviet spokesman said Mr. Gorbachev was continuing the search for an agreement to halt the bloodshed in the Gulf.

Mr. Gorbachev's Gulf crisis group, which includes the foreign and defence ministers, was due to meet later in the day and would decide whether to launch any new initiative.

"They will consider new approaches to bring peace in the Gulf," the spokesman said.

Mr. Gorbachev told President Saddam immediately after U.S.-led forces began bombing last Thursday that he would try to stop the attack if Baghdad announced it was withdrawing from Kuwait.

President Saddam rejected this proposal on Monday, saying U.S. President George Bush must first pay for his "crime of aggression" Radio Baghdad reported.

China has proposed consultations with Moscow on ending the war, according to diplomats in Beijing, and Indian Foreign Minister Vidya Charan Shukla discussed the matter during a stopover in Moscow Tuesday.

The official news agency TASS said Mr. Shukla and Deputy Foreign Minister Vladimir Petrovsky agreed that a rapid, unconditional Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait would stop the bloodshed and open up possibilities for resolving all regional problems — a reference to the Palestinian question.

The crisis group, which includes Foreign Minister Alexander Bessmertnykh, Defence Minister Dmitry Yazov and KGB chief Vladimir Kryuchkov, has met several times since the Gulf war broke out.

Mr. Gorbachev has firmly supported U.S. policy on Iraq, a former close Kremlin ally, while regretting that could not have been more time for negotiation.

His policy has come under fire from some right-wingers, who have joined Arab students in protest demonstrations.

Conservative Soviet newspapers have sniped at the United States. The Communist Party daily Pravda said Tuesday that the United States was fighting to defend its economic interests, given its dependence on imported oil.

"But surely one can defend the vital interests of every U.S. citizen a different way from bombing by B-52s and cruise missiles," Pravda said. "It has long been clear that the United States should end its dependence on Middle East oil."

In largely Muslim Bangladesh, 1.5 million Muslims from 50 nations joined an Islamic gathering Monday outside Dhaka that ended with a mass prayer for peace in the Gulf. The annual meeting is thought to be the second-largest Muslim gathering after the Haj pilgrimage to Mecca, Saudi Arabia.

Tens of thousands of other Muslims marched Monday in

(Continued on page 5)



# Saudi forces quit frontlines as war starts

By John King  
The Associated Press

SAUDI ARABIA — Saudi units assigned to the front line near Kuwait to demonstrate Arab resolve moved to positions behind U.S. forces the first night of the war, angering some American and British soldiers.

Saudi officials acknowledge the pullback but insist it was, in the words of an official military source, "a planned withdrawal."

American military sources said the U.S. command knew about it in advance, but they did not know how far in advance. The U.S. command was refused official comment.

A Saudi official quoted anonymously by the Saudi Press Agency said the withdrawal was planned well in advance of hostilities and designed to protect the Saudi troops from Iraqi artillery and rocket fire during the air phase of the war.

A U.S. marine officer in the area said the Saudis pulled back just before allied forces, including Saudi pilots, began a bombing campaign against Iraqi positions in Iraq and southern Kuwait, including some within 80 kilometres of the Saudi-Kuwait border.

"We're essentially the front now," said the marine officer, who would not let his name be used.

If the Saudi troops "had come by here" when they were pulling back, said a British officer in the border area, "I'd have turned my bloody guns on them and sent them back."

Saudi troops also are stationed to the west, in the Hafir Al Batin area about 100 kilometres south of the Kuwait-Iraq border.

Another Saudi official said, also anonymously, that the withdrawal "was according to the plan." He said: "Civilians had already been evacuated from the area and this was a plan to evacuate the area."

U.S. marines remain, however, and have inched north, harassed every day by artillery and rocket fire from Iraqi forces.

## Tall stories part of Gulf disinformation war

CAIRO (R) — Heard the one about Saddam Hussein's wife and sons fleeing to Mauritania aboard a plane loaded with gold, money and secret documents?

Flatly denied by the Mauritanian and Iraqi governments, the tale made headlines around the world this week.

Wishful thinking? Disinformation? Propaganda?

"That tall story was just one example of a media war being fought over the airwaves, on the television screens and in the press between the U.S.-led alliance and Iraq," experts say.

"They say that in war the first casualty is truth. This war is being fought live on television and radio, and that makes the truth even harder to pin down," a Cairo-based official of the U.S. Information Agency said.

In the battle for hearts and minds in the Middle East and beyond, rumour can be as effective as Scud or Cruise missiles in shattering enemy morale.

Whether to demoralise the Iraqis or to reassure their own public opinion, U.S. and allied officials leaked a number of exaggerated claims of success in the first hours of the war.

Cable News Network television, broadcasting live from Washington, reported just a few hours into the bombing of Iraq and Kuwait on Jan. 16 that senior Pentagon officials were saying the Iraqi air force had been "virtually decimated."

just across the Kuwaiti border. Several marines have been reported slightly wounded.

Two American airmen captured by Iraq were the pilot and observer in a marine scout plane that was directing return fire by the marines just south of the frontier.

"Our guys are up there getting shot at, jumping into NBC (chemical protective) suits three, four times a day," the marine officer said.

The British officer said the Saudis left small items of equipment and some personal items behind, which indicated to him the decision to move out had not been planned.

Since the American buildup began after Iraq seized Kuwait on Aug. 2, U.S. and Saudi commanders have said their soldiers would fight side-by-side in case of war. Some unit-level U.S. commanders, however, have questioned the Saudis' willingness to fight.

The British officer, interviewed as his unit moved even farther north near the borders with Kuwait and Iraq, said the upper echelon of the Saudi army was well trained and respected by other allied commanders.

"But when you get to the ground-level guys, they just don't have the stomach," the officer said. "They would much rather see someone else do it and pay the bill."

The Saudi official disputed that.

"Our forces are ready and willing to fight," he said. "This was a planned move and is nothing to signal our commitment. We will fight."

As forces were deployed before the war began, American commanders repeatedly stressed that Arabs were manning the front lines.

There were two main reasons for the decision: To portray Iraq as being alone among major Arab states and preserve American public support by presenting the Arabs as leaders in the alliance.

Three days later, U.S. military commanders said they had concluded that much of the Iraqi air force was still intact.

Iraq says it has shot down more than 160 allied aircraft, while the alliance says it has lost 15. Inflated war claims and casualty figures have a long tradition in the Middle East.

Some are too exaggerated even to be effective as disinformation, Western military analysts say. But others may be aimed at inflaming religious passions.

While the United States and its allies say they have been avoiding civilian areas, Baghdad Radio said Sunday the Shi'ite Muslim shrines of Najaf and Kerbala had been bombed. It has not repeated the report.

In the first days of the war, there were repeated rumours that Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak had been assassinated. They briefly affected international currency markets.

Three Egyptian journalists accompanying their country's troops near the front with Kuwait said on day one they saw 50 Iraqi tanks with 190 crew surrender to Egyptian forces.

The story ran on the front pages of Egypt's government-owned newspapers the next day. The Defence Ministry and the president's office said it was not true and allied briefing officers in Saudi Arabia have made no mention of the 190 alleged prisoners.

The story sank without trace.

## Lack of secret codes may have staved off Israeli retaliation

LOS ANGELES (R) — Israel may have decided not to retaliate against Iraq after last week's Scud missile attacks because the United States withheld secret codes to identify its warplanes, the Los Angeles Times said Tuesday.

Quoting unnamed U.S. government sources, the newspaper said Israeli pilots were ready to take off at any second, but they lacked the appropriate IFF (identify friend or foe) computer codes in their aircraft.

This would make them vulnerable to attack by U.S. and allied aircraft if they entered Iraqi airspace and were mistaken for enemy fighters.

The Los Angeles Times said the United States was continuing to withhold the vital codes from Israel.

But Washington had agreed to clear an air corridor for Israeli jets if future missile attacks by Iraq were to cause serious casualties or deaths, it added.

The withholding of the codes indicates that the Bush administration may have used more than pleas and promises of additional defence equipment to persuade the Israelis not to strike back and risk damaging the Gulf coalition," it said.

Washington sent several batteries of Patriot anti-missile mis-

siles manned by U.S. servicemen to Israel at the weekend to bolster its defences against further Scud attacks.

It was the first time U.S. soldiers had been deployed in Israel in defence of the Jewish state.

The Los Angeles Times's sources said the air corridor agreement between Israel and the United States would be implemented in the event of Iraqi missiles hitting Israel with enough severity to warrant retaliation.

Israel would notify the U.S. air attaché in Tel Aviv of its decision to hit back and he would relay Israel's intentions to the U.S. command in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

The information would then be sent to the U.S. airborne warning and control system (AWACS) in order to clear the necessary air space.

In the view of an unnamed congressman quoted by the newspaper, this would be equivalent to allowing the Israeli air force to use the secret IFF codes.

The codes would have to be keyed in to the computers of Israeli warplanes so that allied fighters would recognise them as friendly aircraft.

## Wave of anti-Iraq moves in several countries

LONDON (Agencies) — The Gulf war has caused a series of anti-Iraq moves in many countries, including expulsion of Iraqi diplomats as well as civilians.

Most expulsions have been ordered by members of the anti-Iraq alliance, but Austria and the Philippines have also taken measures to cut the risk of attacks.

The Philippine government said Monday it was expelling Iraq's consul-general in Manila, Muhammad Al Ani, after linking him with a botched attempt to bomb a U.S. library in Manila.

One Iraqi was killed and another seriously injured as the 90kg bomb they were trying to plant in Manila's financial district Saturday went off prematurely.

The Philippines immigration department said intelligence reports showed the two men had used Mr. Ani's car for the attack and the Iraqi consul-general was in the car at the time.

This was the first attack on Western interests outside the Middle East since the Gulf war began Thursday. But governments around the world are braced for more.

The Netherlands and France said they were expelling Iraqi diplomats as part of joint action being taken by several European countries.

"There's a war going on and we want them the hell out," one Dutch official said, following the announcement that four Iraqi diplomats and a non-diplomat at the embassy had been given 24 hours to leave the country.

Only the Iraqi ambassador to the Hague and one attaché have been allowed to remain.

France expelled 12 Iraqi diplomats and their dependants, but Ambassador Abdul Razzak Al Hashemi, Iraq's senior envoy to Western Europe, was allowed to stay with four aides.

Diplomatic sources in Rome said the Italian government was to announce the expulsion of several Iraqi diplomats Tuesday and Greek radio said the government in Athens was deporting 17 Arabs on security grounds, including Iraqis, Libyans and Palestinians.

Last week Iraqi deported seven Iraqis, described by the authorities as dangerous, but none was a diplomat.

It also arrested another, Khalid Dubhan Al Jawary, who is

wanted in the United States in connection with a series of bomb attacks on Israeli targets in Washington in 1973.

Austria said on Monday it had arrested 11 Iraqis belonging to a pro-Iraqi group on suspicion of planning attacks.

"There are indications that these people were planning terrorist activities," said Interior Minister Franz Loeschner, without giving further details.

The popular Vienna daily Kronenzeitung reported that they had entered Austria on forged passports carrying \$15,000 and a small quantity of drugs.

In Belgium, a political scandal has erupted over the foreign Ministry's authorisation of a visit by a senior aide of Palestinian leader Abu Nidal on the eve of the Gulf war.

Two senior Foreign Ministry officials resigned Monday after having allowed Walid Khaled, spokesman of Abu Nidal's Fateh Revolutionary Council, to visit Belgium.

He was invited for talks on the release of Belgian hostages in Lebanon who were freed a week ago, but was still in Belgium when war broke out. "This presence on Belgian territory at the height of the Gulf conflict is unacceptable," said Deputy Prime Minister Philippe Moureaux.

Monday's wave of expulsions and arrests followed an earlier clampdown on Iraqi diplomats last week, when Britain expelled 28, the United States and Germany an estimated seven.

Britain said Monday it had detained 72 other Iraqi residents whom it considers a security risk.

The Foreign Office said two were members of the Iraqi armed forces and were being held as prisoners of war.

Though all Western countries have withdrawn all their diplomatic staff from Baghdad, which is now subjected to heavy daily bombing, they have stopped short of closing down Iraq's diplomatic missions in their own capitals.

Diplomatic sources said this was to keep open a line of communication to the Iraqi leadership.

Three Iraqi diplomats expelled from Canada at the weekend were suspected of having links with extremists, a federal government source said.

## MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

### 10 Saddams born in Bangladesh

DHAKA (AP) — At least 10 baby boys born in the city of Rangpur in the last 18 hours have been named Saddam in honour of the Iraqi president, a newspaper reported Tuesday. "I will call my son Saddam Hussein, every child in Bangladesh should become a hero like him," Abul Hossain was quoted as saying by the Khabar newspaper. Hossain learned of his son's birth Monday when he returned home from a demonstration denouncing the United States and its allies for waging war against Iraq, the newspaper said. The independent Bengali-language Daily said nine other baby boys born in Rangpur Sunday and Monday also were named Saddam — an unusual name in this Islamic but non-Arab nation. At least 5,000 Saddam supporters paraded through Rangpur in a half-dozen separate anti-American protests Monday, the newspaper said. Rangpur, which has a population of about 120,000, is 250 kilometres north of Dhaka.

### Singapore tightens visa rules

SINGAPORE (R) — Holders of passports from a number of Middle Eastern and North African countries will need a visa to visit Singapore from Tuesday, the home affairs (interior) ministry said. The visa requirement applies to nationals of Iraq, Libya, Algeria, Kuwait, Lebanon, Jordan, Syria, Tunisia and Yemen. "The government has had to reluctantly impose the visa requirement now that there is a worldwide concern on terrorism," the ministry said in a statement. "Our intelligence service has been advised that terrorists have often used either forged passports or genuine passports from these countries." The visa requirement was a temporary measure and would be reviewed "once the situation in the Gulf region permits it," it said.

### Sudanese businessman sentenced to death

KHARTOUM (R) — A Khartoum court sentenced a Sudanese businessman to hang for trying to smuggle gold ingots and hard currency out of the country, official press reports said Tuesday. The Guwwat Al Mussallah newspaper said Hani Shakour, a Coptic Christian, was given the death sentence after being convicted of trying to smuggle \$36,250, 50 pounds sterling, 500 Saudi riyals and 960 kg of gold to Cairo through Khartoum airport last May.

### Blast damages Lebanese-French Bank

BEIRUT (R) — A bomb blast lightly damaged the Lebanese-French Bank in Beirut late Monday, the bank manager said on Tuesday. A man in a speeding car threw the bomb at the entrance of the bank, slightly damaging the main door and shattering some windows, bank manager Jamal Mansour told Reuters. "Each time there is an international crisis involving major powers there will be attacks like these. But they won't affect our work," Jamal said. "We will increase security at night." The bank is the third largest in Beirut in terms of capital. A West Beirut branch of the British Bank of the Middle East was slightly damaged on Sunday by a bomb explosion. Hours later gunmen fired a rocket-propelled grenade at the Italian embassy.

### Five killed in Ugandan bar quarrel

KAMPALA (R) — Five people were killed when a young Muslim set fire to a bar following a row over the Gulf war in eastern Uganda at the weekend, police reported. Officers investigating the deaths of four men and one woman said the incident took place on Sunday at the town of Iganga, 130 kilometres east of the capital Kampala. They said that the man, Ismael Isabirye, stormed out of the bar after a quarrel over which side was right and who was the likely winner of the conflict. Accusing the others of being non-believers, he locked the door and set the bar on fire. More than 60 per cent of Ugandans are Christian, and around 10 per cent are Muslims.

### Governor rejects Detroit request

DETROIT (R) — Michigan Governor John Engler Monday rejected Detroit's request that national guard troops be posted at key facilities in the city to deter potential extremist attacks. Mr. Engler said local security appeared sufficient for the time being. But he did not flatly rule out the possibility of a future troop presence. Last week, Mayor Coleman Young declared a state of emergency and appealed to Mr. Engler for troops to guard bridge and tunnel border crossings with Canada and the local airport. It was the first such request by an American city for national guard aid in connection with the Gulf war. Detroit, with the largest concentration of Arabs in the United States, has been the subject of intense scrutiny by federal law enforcement agencies as fears of extremist attacks have increased.

## Mubarak: No ceasefire before Iraqi withdrawal

CAIRO (Agencies) — President Hosni Mubarak said Tuesday

Egypt had no plans to call for a ceasefire in the Gulf war unless Iraq pulled its forces out of occupied Kuwait.

"We cannot announce a new initiative for a ceasefire today. Nobody will listen to such talk," Mubarak said in remarks carried by Egypt's Middle East News Agency (MENA).

"Iraq must withdraw from Kuwait because without withdrawal from Kuwait we will not be able to persuade the international community to stop this operation," he said, referring to the bombing of Iraq and Kuwait by the U.S.-led alliance, which includes an estimated 45,000 Egyptian troops.

Asked about press reports that might seek a limited truce to give Iraq time to change its mind, Mr. Mubarak said a cease-

fire that allowed Iraqi troops to stay in Kuwait would violate U.N. Security Council resolutions calling for a withdrawal.

Rejecting calls from some opposition groups to withdraw Egyptian troops from the Gulf, Mr. Mubarak asserted that they were sent in line with Arab summit resolutions and a 1950 Arab defence pact.

"What is behind this talk of withdrawing troops and in whose interest?" Mr. Mubarak asked. "Do we accept occupation of land by force?"

"If we establish such a principle, Israel will say 'if you agree to the occupation of an Arab country by force, how come you demand that I cede land or solve the Palestinian issue?'"

The fundamentalist Muslim Brotherhood and key professional associations attacked the participation of Egyptian troops

## Women curse U.S., Bush; express support for Iraq

AMMAN (J.T.) — A crowd of 500 Jordanian and Iraqi women

staged a protest in front of the American embassy in Amman Tuesday chanting anti-U.S. slogans and calling on the Iraqi armed forces to defeat the aggressors.

The women shouted support for Iraq and called for the downfall of George Bush and the heads of Arab countries arrayed behind the American-led coalition fighting Iraq.

The protesters — who staged the largest demonstration yet before the U.S. embassy — called for the implementation of the Iraqi Aug. 12 initiative which links the Gulf crisis with the Palestine question, and called for international resolutions to be applied with equal weight.

The women, many in the traditional robe and head dress and waving Iraqi, Jordanian and Palestinian flags, cursed the United States as the enemy of God and President George Bush as a "butcher of children."

It was the biggest demonstration at the U.S. mission since the Gulf war started last Thursday with American, Western and Arab bombing raids on Iraq to force it to leave Kuwait.

Security men, including riot police, watched the protest from cars as it moved from the U.S. embassy to the nearby Egyptian mission before ending peacefully.

The Jordanian Women's Committee for Steadfastness announced Tuesday it will organise a sit-in at the United Nations offices in Shmeisani Wednesday.

The U.N. offices have witnessed a series of sit-ins over the past three months, with women's delegations submitting notes to be forwarded to the U.N. Secretary General demanding an end to the foreign invasion of the Arabian Peninsula and a peaceful settlement of the Gulf crisis.

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# U.S., Canadian peace activists arrive

By Saeda Kilani  
Special to the Jordan Times

Amman - Not only is the war in the Gulf reflecting millions of people's dismay over the bloodshed and their desire for peace, it also brought to light the widening gap that exists between people's hopes and government action. Hundreds of demonstrations are taking place all over the world calling for peace. Peace activists and organisations are continuing their efforts to promote peace launching massive peace rallies and demonstrations and warning of the catastrophic consequences if war continued.

Two Canadian peace activists, Carl Chaplin, an artist and Randy Thomas, a photographer and writer, arrived here Sunday for the objective of promoting peace. "We are speaking on behalf of many all over the world who desire peace", Chaplin said. "The majority of people in Canada are against the government stand. We are personally embarrassed that we have lost our honourable position as peace activists."

"Many parliamentarians have voiced their strong objection to Canada's role in the Gulf crisis," Thomas added. "In fact, the prime minister's popularity does not exceed 20 per cent among Canadians at the moment."

In his paintings, Chaplin expresses the dramatic situation in the world at present and the rising tension among individuals. "When war broke out, I immediately set to work to paint the latest piece called 'The Goules of Baghdad'. These images are displayed for the first time in the world as a warning."

Not belonging to any specific organisation, Chaplin and Thomas had started their peace trek at their own expense in order to convey their message of peace to the world. As a point of departure they travelled with a show warning of Hiroshima and Nagasaki which was exhibited in Cairo and Jerusalem. They were preparing to exhibit in Moscow and other Eastern European countries until war broke out in the Gulf.

The two peace activists who have confronted different sorts of danger and who lost their luggage en route to Jordan are determined to convey the message of peace wherever possible.

"We are paying all the expenses because we felt the cause is much more worthy than money," Chaplin said. "People should know that seeking security does not take sides and peace can only be maintained if people are free."

# CBJ receives donations for people's army

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) has received donations from the public to finance the People's Army, said Tuesday that it has opened a special bank account to channel the flow of donations for its cause.

A CBJ statement said that members of the public can send their donations during the bank's office hours or can just drop the contributions to local banks operating in Jordan which turn can re-channel the donations to the CBJ account.

Earlier this month, a parliament member took the lead in donating JD 100,000 plus his sole salary from parliament to the People's Army.

Aqaba Deputy Ziad Shweikh said that Jordan and the Arab world were going through very difficult circumstances requiring citizens to offer sacrifices to Armed Forces and the People's Army to bolster the country's defences.

Shweikh made the announcement following a briefing to parliament members by Army Chief Staff Fathi Abu Taleb who outlined the duties of the Armed Forces. The briefing was headed by His Majesty King Hussein, Prime Minister Mudar Tanus and cabinet members. Abu Taleb told the meeting that Armed Forces were going ahead with plans to give every citizen the opportunity to contribute towards the country's defence.

**ROYAL VISIT:** Her Majesty Queen Noor Tuesday paid an inspection visit to the Royal Medical Services, where she was briefed by the director, Major General Dr. Aref Batsayeh, on the preparations being made to deal with any emergency that might arise in light of the current conditions in the region. Queen Noor also visited one of the field dressing stations, where she met with the staff and doctors who briefed her on the types of procedures and operations carried out at the field dressing stations.

# Jordan receives emergency relief supplies from UNICEF

AMMAN (J.T.) — The first consignment of four new shipments of emergency relief supplies from the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) arrived in Amman Tuesday.

The supplies will be used to meet any eventuality resulting from the outbreak of hostilities in the Gulf and the probable influx of large numbers of refugees into Jordan.

A Royal Jordanian (RJ) cargo plane carried the consignment from Copenhagen. The same aircraft is scheduled to make three more consecutive flights between Denmark and Jordan to bring in the supplies, according to a UNICEF official here.

The UNICEF chartered shipments are worth almost \$1 million and were largely funded through

a national fund raising campaign in the Netherlands by the Dutch Committee for UNICEF.

The shipments include emergency drugs and medical supplies sufficient for 300,000 people for three months, 50,000 blankets, large field hospital tents and other emergency supplies.

The other new shipments will arrive during the next four days and will bring to six the number of such emergency relief shipments since early January when two similar consignments arrived on the 8th and 9th of the month.

With the new arrivals, UNICEF's contributions towards Jordan's emergency relief operation will have reached \$4.75 million. The contributions came in response to Jordan's appeal for

aid to evacuees of the Gulf crisis passing through Jordan on their way home.

In Brussels the European Commission decided to open a new credit of ECU 7.5 million (approximately \$10.3 million) in humanitarian assistance in favour of refugee populations and victims of the Gulf war.

The Community aid will be used without discrimination to meet shelter, food, medical and transportation needs of the affected humanitarian organisations such as the International Committee of the Red Cross, Red Cross societies of the Community's member states, the International Organisation for Migration, United Nations agencies, and non-governmental organisations.

# Kilani calls for cohesion

# Bishop Sayegh describes raids on Iraq as barbaric

AMMAN (J.T.) — The United States' ongoing aggression on Iraq Tuesday drew condemnation from Bishop Salim Al Sayegh, of the Roman Catholic Church in Amman who described the air raids on Iraqi targets as barbaric.

The air raids have destroyed places of worship for Muslims and Christians, and the brutal raids have killed innocent children and old men and women, said the bishop in a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

The lives of people are more valuable than all the material things of the world, and those involved in the raids can by no means be true believers in God because they are intent on killing innocent human beings in their places of worship," the bishop said in his statement.

Monks of the Roman Catholic Church in Amman said that the raids, detected by peace-loving nations of the world because it causes devastation and sufferings. Weapons are blind and do not differentiate between military and civilian targets including churches and mosques and homes, as well as economic and scientific centres, Dr. Najjar added.

He voiced the Roman Catholic church's appeal to world leaders concerned with world peace and justice to seek or try to find just and equitable solutions for these problems, including the Palestinian problem, and to deal with all issues on equal terms.

Mr. Al Sayegh called for more cohesion among the Jordanian people in the face of the current crisis and adherence to the wise policies of His Majesty King Hussein.

Addressing directors of awqaf and mosque preachers in the Kingdom at a meeting held at the King Abdullah Mosque, the minister said that the present stage in Arab history required

from the preachers to guide the worshippers and the public in general in their national duty in resisting aggression to support the efforts of the Armed Forces, the Public Security and Civil Defence Departments.

The minister urged the mosque preachers to address worshippers in Friday prayers in matters related to the present crisis and to warn them against hostile propaganda designed to cause splits and dissension among Jordanians. He warned against listening to radio broadcasts by the enemies of the Arab Nation especially concerning news about the events in the Gulf because these broadcasts, he said, were meant to weaken the morale of the people through fabricated reports and hostile campaigns against Iraq.

The minister also called on the mosque preachers to urge the public to contribute generously towards the bolstering of the People's Army.

# WFP, Jordan sign \$6.4m food aid agreement

AMMAN (J.T.) — The World Food Programme (WFP) and the Ministry of Planning Tuesday signed an agreement on the third expansion of Jordanian primary schools, literacy and centres and kindergartens in rural areas.

Under the third expansion scheme, WFP will be spending \$6.4 million for food commodities and transportation, while the Jordanian government plans to spend \$9.8 million in-kind contributions, transportation, storing food supplies etc., according to the agreement which was signed by Minister of Planning Amin Abdullah and United Nations Resident Representative in Jordan Ali Attiga.

Since the project's inception in 1965, WFP assistance has enabled the government to provide a midday snack to tens of thousands of school children from poor rural families. The snack serves as an incentive encouraging children to attend school regularly and alleviates the hunger of those children who come to school without breakfast. Carried out with assistance from the Ministry of Education, past reviews show that the project has been conducted efficiently with the help of experienced and dedicated staff, the

WFP said in a press release. Under this third expansion, the project seeks to ease the negative effects the structural adjustment programme (SAP) will have on Jordan's education sector. SAP measures regarding staple foods are expected to reduce the daily food intake of school children in poor rural areas.

In addition, because of reductions in the education budget plus no new capital expenditures, parents will be required to assume responsibility for a greater share of the costs. Many parents in the poorest areas will be unable to bear the additional costs and there is concern that they may be forced to withdraw their children from school.

WFP assistance is designed to support the education sector in several ways. It is intended to help maintain high rates of enrollment at rural primary schools and to facilitate the operation of kindergartens in rural area. It also seeks to increase enrollment and attendance of adults — particularly rural women — in literacy classes and to encourage rural women to participate in training programmes that will provide them with skills in income-generating activities.

The largest group of beneficiaries consists of pre-school and primary school children. Between 50,000 and 60,000 primary school children and another 1,000 to 1,600 children in kindergartens are expected to receive assistance each year. WFP wheat flour will be given to their parents who in turn are expected to provide their children with traditional home-baked bread which the children will bring to school. Canned meat or cheese, to be eaten with the bread, will be distributed to the children while in school and to the pre-school children in kindergartens.

In addition, between 2,000 and 3,200 adults attending literacy centres and between 700 and 1,000 women trainees will receive family rations of wheat flour, canned cheese or meat, pulses, sugar and tea. The family ration, represents about 31 per cent of their daily food expenditures and therefore provides a significant level of income transfer to these low income families.

The programme has been also assisting Jordan with a project designed to develop the highland agricultural region and a second project supporting the development of rangeland and meat production. The value of all WFP assistance to Jordan to date is \$152.5 million.

# Bomb scare at British bank

AMMAN (J.T.) — The branch of the British Bank of the Middle East on Jabal Hussein was Tuesday the target of a bomb threat, but there was no explosion and the police safely removed the suspect object.

David Tate, Jordan area manager of the Hong-Kong owned bank said Jordanian bomb disposal experts found the device in a folded newspaper that was spotted on a counter at the bank's Jabal Hussein branch, according to a report carried by Reuters news agency.

The agency quoted police sources as saying that the bomb was a fake device. But the Associated Press (AP) agency quoted other police sources as

saying that it was a one kilogramme explosive device which was dismantled safely.

The bank manager told AP that the device contained only batteries and no explosives. Last October a similar suspect package was spotted at the British Bank in downtown Amman and was removed without causing any danger.

Agence France Presse (AFP) said that its office in Amman received a call claiming that the device was planted by a group calling itself the Arab Communist Revolutionary Party. But the AFP said the police confirmed that the suspected object contained batteries and some wires but no explosives.

At the weekend a bomb went off outside a British Bank branch in West Beirut, causing no casualties and slight damage.

On Friday night a gunman fired six shots at the Amman offices of the U.S. Citibank from a speeding car, causing slight damage but no injuries.

The British Council, Britain's government-backed overseas cultural organisation, announced the temporary closure of its Amman office and library on Sunday.

Tate told Reuters Jordanian police guards at his bank's five Amman branches would be doubled after Thursday's scare. All visitors would be searched.

# Senators, deputies decry Turkish stand

AMMAN (Petra) — Members of the Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament Tuesday criticised the Turkish government position towards the Gulf crisis. They said that the changing Turkish position contravened Islamic beliefs and traditions which call for Islamic solidarity and forbids siding with the infidels.

The parliament members interviewed by Petra expressed wonder at the change of the Turkish position, saying that Turkey would not take part in any attack against Iraq, nor will it allow any of the U.S.-alliance war planes to take off from its territory.

Spokesman for the Islamist bloc at the Lower House Ahmad Quteish Azaideh said Turkey's position contravenes totally with the Islamic faith and Islamic law, and with the history of that Muslim country, which served as a very strong wall in the face of the Crusades, particularly during the 18th and 19th centuries.

He called on the Turkish Muslim people to counter any attack on and any intervention in a Muslim country. He noted that the present Turkish position enhances the attempts to detach Turkey from its Islamic environment.

Deputy Fakhri Kaway voiced dissatisfaction with the Turkish position, and said he expected a shift in this position in favour of Iraq and the Arab and Muslim nations.

Deputy Thouqan Hindawi said Turkey has joined the camp

of the enemies of the Arab Nation by allowing the U.S. allies to use its airbases to carry out attacks against Iraq. Hindawi added that America and Israel were planning to liquidate Arab causes, by attacking Iraq. He noted that whoever keeps silent over the attack or takes part in it is an enemy of the whole Arab Nation.

Deputy Salim Al Zu'bi said it was clear that the U.S.-led campaign against Iraq was designed to destroy the state of national awakening the Arab and Muslim countries are going through, and to obliterate the Arab and Islamic civilisations.

He added that Arab masses will determine the outcome of this battle, by supporting Iraq and extending every possible help for it.

Deputy Laith Shbeilat said that the Turkish position was bad and was in line with the American policy, noting that the United States has paid Turkey billions of dollars as a price of this position. He added that it was high time for Turkey to find out, after being refused to join the European Community and after sacrificing great proportions of its budget to maintain the presence of the largest world armies, to go back to its Islamic roots and contribute to leading the Islamic nation against Zionist forces of oppression.

Deputy Mohammad Faris Tarawneh described the Turkish position as hostile to the whole

Arab Nation and Arab and Islamic aspirations in liberating the usurped land and ensuring the fair distribution of Arab wealth. He said that Turkey's position was against the genuine Turkish interests and detrimental to its historical relations with the Arab Nation.

Upper House of Parliament member Jumas Hammad expressed surprise at Turkey's position, saying that it has great economic interests with Iraq. He noted that Turkey nets more than \$2.5 billion as revenues from the Iraqi oil pipeline, which passes through the Turkish land. Hammad wondered how the Turkish decision-makers accepted to undermine their economic interests with the Arabs and particularly with Iraq, and to forget all the religious ties that have linked the Arabs and Turks throughout history.

Hammad pointed out that the hostile Turkish position was prompted by the huge financial aid Turkey had received in return for a new role within the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO), and as a result of its close relations with the U.S.

Hammad referred to the opposition movements in Turkey saying that there was great resistance for this position among the Turkish people and among some Turkish officials. The resignations of the foreign minister, the chief of staff and the commander in chief of the Turkish army were not but a true

evidence of such an opposition. The House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Ahmad Innab said the Turkish position contravened with all values and relations of good neighbourhood, religion, and culture, saying that the Turkish government was tempted by the volume of aid pledged or received.

Salt Deputy Samir Kaway said the Arabs and Muslim worlds were shocked by the Turkish position, and its decision authorising the U.S.-led forces to use Turkish bases to launch attacks against Iraq. He called on Turkey to reconsider its position to safeguard its interests and those of the countries of the region.

Senator and former prime minister Ahmad Obaidat described the Turkish position as extremely grave, given the historical background and the joint borders between Turkey and Iraq. Obaidat noted that condemnation of the Turkish position was a must. He called on all Arab and Muslim nations to move to all official and national levels to condemn the position of the Turkish leadership against Iraq.

Deputy speaker of the Lower House Atef Al Butoush said the Turkish government's position was contrary to the will of the Turkish people. He voiced hope that the Turkish people stop this alliance with the enemies of the Arab and Islamic nations and to exercise pressure on their government to cause it to change its position.

# Baghdad turns into a different place under U.S., allies 'surgical strikes'

By Mariam M. Shahin  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — As the U.S.-led alliance bombed chemical plants and nuclear installations out of existence on the outskirts of Baghdad and other Iraqi cities, no questions have been raised so far about the consequences of these "surgical" operations against "strategic sites."

While the two sides reported "few" civilian casualties neither environmentalists nor human rights activists, including Amnesty International, were on hand to file their respective reports.

As the "surgical strikes" continue, the possibilities of a "quick war" have already evaporated. U.S. Secretary of State Dick Cheney has admitted the Gulf war could last for weeks and maybe months.

The Iraqi capital, has become a different place. The city is being denied water, electricity and petrol. People coming out of the city gave the Jordan Times a grim account of what life is like in the shell-shocked city.

Despite reports to the contrary, Baghdad is still full of people, says BBC television correspondent John Simpson, who left the city Jan. 21.

"While some people have left, most are still in the city," says Simpson who was the first Euro-

pean TV correspondent to enter Baghdad in August. "It seems to have been a conscious decision by both the residents and the government, who in fact did not encourage the residents to leave."

While the people have remained in the city, reports of increasingly "miserable living conditions" are on the rise.

Eyewitnesses report that as power was cut off a few hours after the allied shelling began, water ceased to run and all public works came to a standstill.

"Not one single electric light can be seen on the streets of Baghdad at night. Only the occasional car head lamps show signs of life," Simpson says.

While Simpson, who has spent most of the last five months in Baghdad, says there have been no signs of deliberate attacks on civilian targets, he says that a train full of civilians was reportedly hit.

"The strikes seem to concentrate on strategic sites and not civilian areas," Simpson says.

A long-term Jordanian resident of Baghdad does not believe that there had been precision in the bombing of Baghdad. "My house was bombed and I don't believe it is a strategic site," said Mahmoud Karam.

Those few who have visited Iraqi hospitals say the hospitals'

occupancy indicate that there were no more than "two dozen casualties for each night of bombing." Others say that injured could die very soon because of the lack of adequate medication.

"Before the war started there was a problem with medication. Patients could not be properly treated because of a lack of medicine. The situation now can only be worse," said a journalist who left Baghdad two days before the war began.

Those residents of Baghdad who had lived through the eight-year Iran-Iraq war, have now "dug into" their bunkers once again to resist the evils that war brings.

While lack of food has not been reported by people fleeing Baghdad, incredible inflation is making many basic foodstuffs practically unattainable.

"Children's milk is not cheap to come by," said a mother of two who returned to Amman two days after the war broke out. "There is lots of dates syrup, but you can't live on that alone," she complained.

"Wherever people reside there is an unmistakable smell," said Simpson who added that "even in the hotels the hygienic condition are deteriorating quickly."

The diseases caused by a lack of sanitation are likely to spread

if the situation continued for long, said a Jordanian doctor who kept following the situation in Baghdad and other Iraqi cities currently under fire.

Despite the clause in the U.N.-sponsored embargo on Iraq that excludes medication, Iraq has in fact been denied medication for the last five months.

Despite the evident hardship, Arabs returning from Baghdad say the Iraqi moral is relatively high and both Arabs and Westerners agree that the first missile attack on Tel Aviv was the greatest moment of relief for the Israelis since the war broke out.

"As they sat in their bomb shelters they heard the news.... Tel Aviv was hit by Iraqi missiles and yodelling could be heard from bunker to bunker," reported a 44-year-old Jordanian returning from Baghdad Sunday night.

"It seemed to give Iraqis the impression that some good would come out of this conflict... their greatest enemy had been hit and that in itself was an accomplishment," one Western journalist told the Jordan Times. He said that Iraqis considered Israel and not the U.S.-led alliance to be the greater of the two evils. "There is no doubt in my mind that Iraqis hold Israel directly responsible for the war."

# Business leader sees more activity in relaxing government bureaucracy

By Nur Sati  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The war in the Gulf has brought about a virtual stalemate to business activities in the country. In view of these circumstances, the business sector has found itself engulfed between striving to enhance its business activities yet unable to do so because special attention to the sector has not been given by the government.

In an attempt to increase incentives for the private sector, in order to once again activate commercial activity, Mohammed Asfour, chairman of the Jordanian Chamber of Commerce called for a relaxation in government bureaucratic procedures.

"The present circumstances dictate that there should be a significant decrease in government routine, red tape, bureaucracy and other measures that may hamper the drive, or negatively affect the private sector in performing its national duty," Asfour told the Jordan Times.

He said that since the country took to expanding the private sector role, (increasing production and improving conditions for investment) decreasing routine and unnecessary red tape has always been a goal.

Standards and specification could be amended or relaxed in order to roll the wheels for imports and for locally-manufactured products.

Another obstacle to business flow is certain regulations hindering activity of free zones, he says. While Jordan has always abided by the United Nations Security Council resolutions, which ban all exports to Iraq, save food and medicine, "this should not be an excuse to ban exports totally out of the free zones," Asfour explains. He says that Jordanian free zones are very important element because they enhance the role of the private sector and encourage commercial activity. "Imposing obstacles on re-export from the free zones to countries outside Jordan, totally defeats the purpose for which free zones were created."

"The pressures being imposed on Jordan's commercial activities with the outside world are well known," Asfour stated.

"The interception of ships heading into Aqaba port is no longer a subject for debate. This, with the added assumption that the Gulf of Aqaba is now within the war zone, has made the insurance companies put significant increase on the normal insurance premiums," not to mention the war insurance premiums.

When the Customs Department considers a war risk premium as part of the cost and levies customs duties on that, the only result, Asfour said, is an increase on the cost.

This reflects in higher prices of imports that will be ultimately paid by consumers or manufacturers.

Although the Ministry of Industry and Trade has already exempted five per cent of the war risk premium from the customs duties, "we hope that to

alleviate problems, an immediate decision will be made," Asfour said, suggesting that "the customs department accept a bank guarantee from the importer until the Economic Security Council makes clear decisions in that respect."

Asfour concluded that a very important point during these crucial times is "to find the easiest and quickest possible ways of clearing goods from the port of Aqaba and to make sure that there are none left there so they (the goods) would not be a target for hostilities."

In this manner at least, goods are retrieved against bank guarantees (given to the customs department by the importers). Goods will also be in the owners' warehouses and closer to the consumer as well as away from danger.

# New recruits graduate

MAFRAQ (Petra) — A new batch of People's Army recruits graduated Wednesday in the city of Mafraq. The commander of the People's Army in the city delivered a speech in which he affirmed the importance of the People's Army in protecting the country and in supporting the Jordanian armed forces. One of the graduates affirmed in his speech the readiness of the People's Army recruits to sacrifice their lives to protect their homeland.

# Emergency council formed

AMMAN (Petra) — The University of Jordan decided Wednesday to form a higher emergency council which will be chaired by the university president and will include his assistants, the student affairs dean and the secretary general. The university's emergency committee held a meeting Wednesday under the chairmanship of the student affairs dean.



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## GUEST EDITORIAL

By G. H. Jansen

AFTER THE Iraqi Scud missile attack, Israel was able to blackmail the U.S. into providing the Jewish state with the protection of Patriot missiles and the presence offshore of the U.S. carrier "Forrestal." The leverage was the Israeli threat that without such protection Israel would have to attack Iraq on its own and that this could disrupt the alliance and extend the war because Israeli planes would have to fly over Jordan which would resist any violation of its airspace.

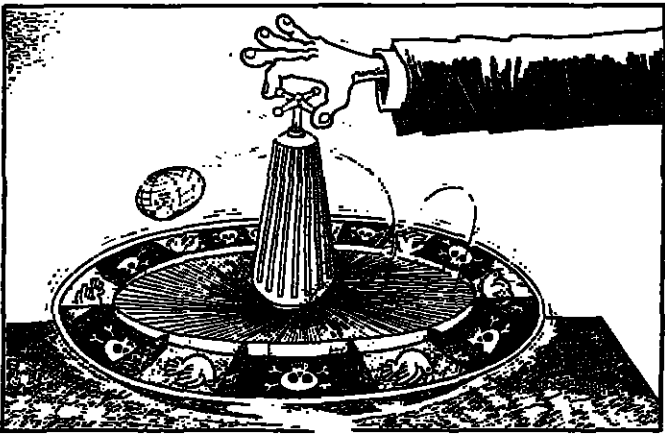
This threat is baseless because Israeli planes attacking Iraq could use two other alternative routes, bypassing Jordan to the south and Syria to the north. Indeed the Israeli airforce has already used the southerly bypass. When in June 1981 Israel attacked the Iraqi nuclear reactor its planes on the way to Baghdad overflew Saudi Arabia, returning over Jordan because of a shortage of fuel. In the present circumstances the Saudis would cheer the Israeli attackers on.

The northerly bypass would be up the Lebanese and Syrian coasts to the Incirlik airbase near Adana from where the U.S. planes are attacking Iraq. The Turks would certainly have no objections to Israeli overflights.

Both routes are longer than the one over Jordan but the Israeli airforce is now experienced in mid-air refuelling and used it in the attack on PLO headquarters in Tunis in 1985. These being the geographic facts it is pure propaganda for the Israelis to say that they "had" to drag Jordan into the war because they "had" to use Jordanian airspace. If and when they dragged Jordan in it would be because they want to destroy Jordan's armed forces so that there should be no resistance to the long-term Israeli plan of "transferring" the West Bank Palestinians across the river to the East Bank.

### Foot note:

Who ever decided to send a U.S. Forrestal to the Eastern Mediterranean to provide protection for Israel must have had the blackest of black senses of humour. James Forrestal was secretary of the navy under Truman and did everything he could to block U.S. involvement in the creation of the Jewish state. He failed and thereafter was so hounded by the Zionist groups in the U.S. that he committed suicide.



## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

THE INVASION of Arab territories and the ongoing onslaught on Iraq are being waged in the spirit of the old crusades characterised with hatred for everything which is Islamic and Arab, said Al Ra'i Arabic daily Tuesday. The new crusaders are attacking Islamic countries under the pretext of implementing what the colonial powers call a "new world order," but are in fact destroying all values and human principles by doing so, the paper noted. Indeed, the new crusaders have come here with their minds obsessed with the old Roman vision of masters and slaves, with the West being the masters of course and the Islamic nations being the slaves, the paper continued. It said that the Western invaders are under the effect of their illusions that they can beat the Islamic nations who they consider as not only slaves but also murderers. The intensive air raids on Iraq, which have been going on for six days now can only be considered as the first step towards building the so-called new world order which the colonial powers continue to advocate, said the paper. But it stressed that the invaders who have been killing indiscriminately and destroying churches and mosques are bound to taste defeat by the faithful Arabs and Muslims.

A columnist in Al Ra'i Arabic daily discusses the national economy and the question of imports and exports. Salah Abdul Samad calls for the local manufacturers of goods to try to improve the quality of their products even more than before to substitute those imported from foreign nations. The writer urges Jordanians to boycott goods coming from countries involved in the ongoing aggression on Iraq and to try to find substitutes for these products in other neutral and friendly countries. Under the present circumstances, boycotting the invaders' goods is a national duty and the responsibility of every household, he notes. There is no doubt that the Arab people of Jordan and elsewhere are deeply angered by this aggression on the Iraqi people, and the boycotting of goods from hostile countries is the least that they can do at present, he adds. It is true that Jordan's markets are relatively small, but, he says, that by boycotting foreign products, Jordanians can set a good example for other Arab states to follow suit.

## Ecopolitical Forum

# A new world order founded on war!

BELIEVE it or not: The crisis which triggered the hasty mobilisation of the unprecedented American armada and troop build-up in the Gulf to defend the Saudi Arabia against an Iraqi attack has ended up in the Saudis attacking Iraq! Saudi air squadrons are very active in bombing Baghdad: even the French have hesitated to bomb Iraq proper, because the issue at stake is the "liberation" of Kuwait not the destruction of Iraq. However, to the Americans and Saudis, the question is one of wiping out the Iraqi military power. To them, other things were pretexts and the United Nations resolutions have been merely a cover, that is a licence to kill.

And killing is what the Americans, Saudis and Britons have been very busy and enthusiastically doing during the past seven days, in the course of which they are consuming very extensively the American taxpayer's money, the revenues of the Arab oil and above all, American and Arab lives. Kuwait is, after all, a stretch of sand. It is very difficult to believe that the American citizen or taxpayer treasures it to the extent of sacrificing American lives as President George Bush generously does.

Mr. Bush is the head of a really and truly great democracy and a great society. In this particular capacity he wields not only a great power, but also a powerful propaganda machine and enormous

means to manipulate and mould public opinion. In the special case of Iraq and Kuwait, he has successfully used these means to convince the American citizen that this stretch of sand called Kuwait is worth dying for. Consequently, unknown thousands of Americans and Arabs will be killed and immense physical destruction will be inflicted. Pragmatically speaking, the head of the "great" American democracy is thus much worse than a dictator. He should not have left things reach the point of waging war which must be a conclusive evidence of his incompetence leadership. Here he has failed and it is so tragic that he is trying to correct a personal mistake, or miscalculation, by that most barbarous method which is called war.

Using that machine and sometimes a very heavy stick and other times an enormous carrot (of Saudi and Kuwaiti petrodollars), Mr. Bush achieved a number of consecutive and connected steps. First he foiled an early Arab solution to the Gulf crisis based on the concurrence of Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait. Second, he hypnotised the Saudis to imagine an impending Iraqi attack and thereafter to invite American troops to Saudi Arabia.

Third, he managed to forge an odd coalition made up of countries ranging from Bangladesh, Sierra Leone and Senegal to Britain

and France. Fourth, under the taboo of maintaining the unity of the members of the coalition, Mr. Bush intimidated the European community and particularly France, into not making any initiatives to resolve the crisis peacefully after he had imposed withdrawal cell. With all roads to a peaceful solution blocked by Bush's policy, the world has had to march to war willy-nilly. The is exactly where the world stands right now, apparently to Mr. Bush's relief. Surely, he has achieved all of this through democratic procedures, in the Congress and in the United Nations, but this does not make the substance legitimate, just or humane. War is a crime, the worst of crimes, and is utterly unjustifiable even if Bush has been relatively, albeit temporarily, successful in justifying it to the American public and his coalition partners.

As head of a superpower, who must have the deepest sense of responsibility, Mr. Bush should have exhausted all peaceful means before resorting to war. Instead he brilliantly aborted all efforts that would have led to a peaceful settlement to the Kuwait conflict. No new world order can be erected by a leader like him, at least not in the Middle East. Or are we talking about world disorder?!

## Censorship in the land of freedom

From Rania Atalla

WASHINGTON — Some have referred to it as "controlled" and "directed" coverage. Others have called it outright censorship. Whatever the name given, restrictions on the coverage of the Gulf war have angered more than just a handful of Americans, journalists in particular.

"For the first time since World War II, correspondents must submit to near-total military supervision of their work," wrote Malcolm Browne in Monday's New York Times. "Most reporters are uncomfortable with a news system so completely under military control."

Syndicated columnists Jack Anderson and Dale Van Atta have protested what they referred to as the Pentagon's "self-serving regulations" which, according to them, not only inhibit journalists' right to report but also infringe on "the people's right to an unofficial version of events."

According to Pentagon regulations that guide coverage of

the Gulf war, reporters get a chance to see and hear much of what goes on as members of "pools" — or groups of 60 or so journalists, rotated periodically and given access to military sites through special arrangement by the Joint Information Bureau (JIB) in Dhahran. Pool reporters go out in small groups, approximately six at a time with a cameraman, to U.S. units either on land or on ships in order to observe the "action."

They may not use names of places they visit or reveal any clues that could help "the enemy" in its war effort. Furthermore, the service men and women they are allowed to interview are selected by officers from the JIB, with the assistance of the unit commander.

Military officials say the arrangement is designed to protect U.S. service men and women and to prevent the "enemy" from getting leads or clues on allied plans and intentions in the war. But Anderson and Van Atta disagree. "Of course, the military censors will deny that they are censors

and will swear that their interventions are intended solely to safeguard our fighting men and women," they wrote in Monday's Washington Post. "The generals don't want their moves to reach home through what they consider to be the distorting prism of the media. If they want something known, they would rather release it through their own tightly controlled mechanisms."

In fact, the two columnists seemed so aggravated by the "press censorship" and the restriction of Americans' "most precious right" — their right to know — that they urged Americans to respond to their comments and promised that the Post would tabulate their views and transmit them to the department of defence. "Let the Pentagon know how you feel," they challenged.

Anderson, Van Atta and Browne attribute the censorship to the military generals' desire to avoid a situation analogous to the coverage of the Vietnam war. "The system implemented here has its roots in military dissatisfaction with

news coverage of the Vietnam war, which some military officials continue to argue was lost by the news media," wrote Browne.

Some reporters and members of the public have been frustrated by the absence of pictures and television footage showing damage done to cities like Baghdad and Kuwait. Tapes released by the military and shown by television networks illustrate "precision bombing" of non-civilian targets by allied air forces. The "pin-point accuracy" of such aerial bombing accounts for 80 per cent of the 8,000 or so sorties by jet fighters, according to the Pentagon.

In an article on press censorship in The Guardian — a radical weekly paper published in New York — Robin Andersen stated that four journalists and nine news organisations (The Guardian included) have filed a law suit in New York's federal court challenging the press restrictions imposed on reporting the Gulf war. The lawsuit, Andersen revealed, seeks an injunction to "stop the Pentagon from

censoring the media coverage of the Gulf." Defendants in the case are U.S. President George Bush, Secretary of Defence Dick Cheney, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Colin Powell and Pentagon spokesperson Pete Williams.

"The press has become less critical and has learned to accept government deceptions at face value," wrote Andersen in this week's edition of The Guardian, adding that the restrictions on the Gulf war coverage were not instituted for "bonafide security reasons," but were aimed at controlling public opinion by ensuring favourable coverage of the U.S. military presence in the Gulf.

The Guardian article charges that the military has given special treatment to select news organisations and has helped expedite the granting of visas and permits for journalists whose coverage is expected to favour the U.S. military. "Journalists who have filed unfavourable reports have been blacklisted,"

Andersen wrote.

A number of Americans have expressed their frustration at the media's coverage of the Gulf war and have aired their views on public-supported television and radio stations such as National Public Radio and the Public Affairs Network cable channel.

"The censorship is one of the most serious in modern times," complained one university professor. "The media is not comfortable with the military censorship but it is still not willing to challenge it," said Frances Hassou. "The United States media is acting like the public relations firm of the United States government," she added.

Others seemed satisfied with the job the U.S. media has done since the beginning of the war. "I am sure reporters are being as open as they can and are showing all (the pictures) they can," one woman said. As for the military establishment, it is probably "filtering out some things," she said. "Any government is probably doing the same thing," she added.

# No 'get in and get out' for allied forces in Gulf

By Walter R. Mears  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — In any contest, be it a war or a football game, Americans want a quick victory — "get in and get out" — an earlier president once said. That's why President George Bush and his high command are warning again and again that the Gulf war won't be won easily or instantly.

They do not want a short timetable to become the gauge of success, and they know the political risks of impatience.

Defence Secretary Dick Cheney said the United States would proceed carefully and methodically to force Iraq out of Kuwait while minimising American and allied casualties.

"I hope we can wrap it up just as soon as possible, but I wouldn't want to put a time line on it," Cheney said Monday as he made the circuit of television interviews that the administration is using to get its points across.

Cheney appeared in each of the four television networks. Gen. H. Norman Schwarzkopf, the U.S.

commander in Saudi Arabia, had made the rounds on all four Sunday.

Less than a week into a war waged from the air over Iraq and Kuwait, U.S. casualties have been so low that Schwarzkopf said he was "astounded, delighted and thankful."

First-wave reports of overwhelming success in raiding Iraqi targets have been tempered by subsequent warnings that Iraq still has a massive military machine to be conquered.

"We'll stick with it until the job's done," Cheney said Monday. "It could, conceivably, be weeks. It could, conceivably, be months."

Bush said Friday that he was concerned that "a mood of euphoria" might raise unreasonable expectations. "We must be realistic," he said. "There will be losses. There will be obstacles along the way. And war is never cheap or easy."

Bush had said in advance that if there was war, it would not be another Vietnam, where involvement and escalation came gra-

dually, operations were sometimes restricted by policy and the conflict dragged on for a divisive decade.

Schwarzkopf said he was grateful that in the Gulf, the president and the Defence Department "are allowing the commanders in the field to conduct this war..."

"Obviously, we brief them on what we're doing," the general said in one of his Sunday TV interviews. "Obviously, if they thought we were doing something dumb, they'd tell us about it and we'd change it."

The message of modulated optimism also needs one of the lessons of Vietnam.

In 1964 and 1965 as American combat involvement began, the Johnson administration said it would all be done quickly. Later, there was talk of light at the end of the tunnel, even as the war escalated. Those forecasts of a swift end to what became America's longest war were a factor in the unravelling of support at home.

Pressed for a swift end to the war, with opposition surging, President Lyndon B. Johnson re-

nounced candidacy for reelection in 1968.

"Our American people," Johnson said in late 1967, "when we set in a contest of any kind, whether it is in a war, an election, a football game or whatever it is, want it decided and decided quickly — get in and get out."

Bush, who sometimes relaxes by playing high-speed golf, shows that trait himself. Beyond saying that the Gulf war won't be allowed to drag on as Vietnam did, he has avoided timetables for victory.

Bush said professional football should go ahead with Sunday's championship games, and he spent part of his afternoon watching them on television.

The president's spokesman said the war was no reason for other activities to come to a standstill.

"We said at the outset that it could well take a long time," Cheney said. He wasn't venturing guesses on how long. Nor was Schwarzkopf, who asked how long the war might last, replied: "I have no idea."

# Gulf war dashes early hopes for British hostages in Lebanon

LONDON (R) — Friends and relatives of three British hostages held in Lebanon fear the Gulf war may keep cell doors firmly shut just as they seemed about to open.

While the Gulf crisis brought a thaw in relations between Britain and Arab states with influence over Lebanese kidnappers, the outbreak of war is seen as a cruel setback.

"Count on 10 more years for Terry Waite if there's a war in the Gulf," warned Lebanese Druze leader Walid Junblatt before Western and Arab forces led by the United States began the war against Iraq.

"Mr. Waite, Archbishop of Canterbury Robert Runcie's personal envoy, was kidnapped during a mission to Beirut to free Western hostages. He entered his fifth year in captivity on Sunday with his own chances of release at their lowest ebb for many months."

Mr. Waite and the other hos-

tages — journalist John McCarthy and former British fighter pilot Jackie Mann — are thought to be held by factions in the pro-Iranian Hizbollah (Party of God).

Irish hostage Brian Keenan brought news of Mr. McCarthy and Mr. Waite when he was freed last August after 52 months in captivity in Beirut. Mr. Keenan said he had seen Mr. McCarthy and thought Mr. Waite was held in the same building, but the fate of 76-year-old Mann is unknown.

"This is a very depressing time. We knew that if they didn't come out before the war started it would be a very long siege," said Catherine Comerford of the Friends of John McCarthy, which campaigns for government action to help the hostages.

"John does seem a long way from our grasp now."

The kidnappers will be wary of sending the wrong signal to the West while Western forces are in combat with an Arab state, the

group says.

On the anniversary of Mr. Waite's kidnapping Britain renewed its appeal for Iran and Syria to do all they can to help the hostages, but officials fear the war, with the possibility of Israeli involvement, may delay their release.

Mr. McCarthy, seized on his way to Beirut airport at the end of an assignment, has been held for nearly five years and his friends have grown used to false alarms about his release.

But the return of Mr. Keenan last year, followed by Britain's decision to restore diplomatic links with Iran and Syria, which have great influence in Lebanon, fuelled new optimism over prospects for Mr. McCarthy and the other two British hostages.

Mr. Runcie said last month he thought Mr. Waite might soon be free.

"I remain hopeful and indeed much more hopeful this year than in any of the years since he has

gone," Mr. Runcie said, citing the restoration of the Syrian-backed government in Lebanon and the removal of armed militias from the streets.

The friends of John McCarthy feel the hostages will have to wait until the end of the war before they can hope to be freed.

"If the war is won we could turn round and say: 'Well, how about something for us?'" said Ms. Comerford. "But now we still have to play the waiting game."

Iran has trodden a careful path in the Gulf crisis, condemning both Iraq's invasion of Kuwait and the U.S.-led assault on Iraq. Arab states are one of several forces to have contributed against Baghdad.

But if Israel is sucked into the war and the allies inflict a heavy toll on Arabs in the Gulf, the hostages could be the target of reprisals in a wave of anti-Western feeling.



# Gulf War

JORDAN TIMES, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 23, 1991 5

## Oil wells

(Continued from page 1)

catastrophe that could result. Iraq had previously threatened to ignite Kuwaiti oil wells if the U.S.-led alliance launched an offensive against Iraq.

Officials of the Kuwaiti government-in-exile in the Saudi mountain city of Taif said the deposed leaders were meeting and unavailable for comment.

Oil industry executives in touch with their Kuwaiti counterparts said that storage tanks at Shuaiba and Mina Abdallah were also ablaze.

Shuaiba and Mina Abdallah are about 80 kilometres north of Khafji.

The oil executives were said that the Kuwaitis believe the Iraqis set the installations ablaze because they are very close to the front lines, and the Iraqis were apparently anticipate a ground onslaught by the allied forces.

The tanks that were ablaze were oil product tanks, said one source.

Iraq was widely reported to have mined oilfields in Kuwait following the allied military buildup after its Aug. 2 invasion of the emirate.

In the run up to the crisis, Iraq accused Kuwait of stabbing it in the back by boosting production and driving down prices.

No oil from Iraq and Kuwait has reached world markets since the United Nations imposed sanctions against Baghdad shortly after the invasion.

The oil reserves buried under the sands of Kuwait are the third largest in the world after Saudi Arabia and Iraq and could last 180 years.

Oil industry sources doubted if there would be a major fire because Al Wafra is a small, low-pressure field which produced 100,000 barrels per day (bpd) before Iraq invaded Kuwait.

Kuwait's overall oil output at the time of the invasion was 1.5 million bpd.

Oil was first found in Kuwait in the Burgan field, about 40 kilometres south of Kuwait City, in 1938. The emirate has proven reserves of 94.5 billion barrels, compared with 255 billion for Saudi Arabia and 100 billion for Iraq.

The main oilfields lie in the south and offshore in the waters of the northern Gulf. The Rumaila field, which Iraq had claimed as its own before invading Kuwait, lies under the northern border of the emirate.

## Civilians

(Continued from page 1)

their aggression in the most horrendous crime known so far in both ancient and contemporary history," Radio Baghdad said. It quoted a statement by the National Assembly as saying Iraq was a firm believer in peace.

It accused the allies of violating international law, the U.N. charter and human rights accords under the pretext of international legitimacy and the umbrella of the Security Council, which it said had become a tool of American policy.

The assembly statement referred to President Saddam Hussein for the first time as "Habib Allah and Habib Rasool Allah," the loved one of God and the Prophet Mohammad.

The statement described U.S. President George Bush as "the enemy of man and humanity, the

murderer of children and the thief of good and justice."

Iraq said earlier that U.S. pilots damaged the national museum during an air raid on Baghdad Tuesday, injuring a number of archaeologists and other specialists. It said a baby milk factory was hit in the capital Monday.

The United States and Britain have given the U.N. Security Council complaints about Iraq's treatment of allied prisoners of war (POWs) and other "war crimes," diplomats said Tuesday.

Iraq's media have said the prisoners will be moved to strategic sites for use as human shields to avert allied bombing attacks.

President George Bush expressed fury at the Iraqi broadcast of captured pilots. He vowed: "This is not going to make a difference in the prosecution of the war."

White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater said Tuesday it was "far too early" to talk about compiling a list of "war crimes" charges against President Saddam over the treatment of war prisoners.

Mr. Williams told CNN Tuesday "we have no way of knowing" if allied prisoners are being mistreated in Iraq.

The U.S. government has demanded the International Red Cross be allowed to see the prisoners.

Washington has formally notified Baghdad that it is holding 23 Iraqi prisoners, but Iraq has not given Washington any formal notification.

## Turkey

(Continued from page 1)

"Their viewpoints were identical on the fact that the opening of this front was regarded as a dangerous escalation of the war and a warning that we were on the threshold of a third world war," JANA said.

"They stressed that the Turkish front should be closed forthwith."

Reuters photographer Fatih Saribas said 31 combat aircraft, eight refuelling tankers and one AWACS (airborne warning and control system) plane landed at Incirlik base at 1:30 a.m. after a three-hour overnight mission.

U.S. base spokesmen will not comment on the waves of planes flying sorties from Incirlik. Their targets are believed to include missile launchers, airfields and other installations in northern Iraq.

Iraq has so far fastened a blind eye to Turkey's decision to let Washington use joint U.S.-Turkish bases and Ankara has tried to keep news on the raids out of the headlines.

Asked if Turkey-based U.S. planes had bombed Iraq, Prime Minister Yildirim Akbulut told reporters late Monday: "The Incirlik air base has been used for military purposes."

He refused to give details. Turkish security men have been trying to bar reporters from the Incirlik base perimeter.

"Iraq is not taking cognizance of the American raids because it wants to avoid attacking Turkey," Seyfi Tashan, head of the Ankara-based Foreign Policy Institute, told Reuters.

"The Turkish government is keeping quiet because it does not want to rub the use of the bases, which everybody knows about, in Iraq faces," he said.

Iran has sent veiled warnings to Turkey. Ali Reza Moayeri, an adviser to President Ali Akbar

Hashemi Rafsanjani, came to Ankara Monday asking Turkey to distance itself from the conflict.

Turkey has repeatedly said it wants to maintain Iraq's territorial integrity and has no desire to enter the war.

However, diplomats say Ankara might feel compelled to intervene if Syria or Iran tried to capture slices of northern Iraq or if Kurds tried to set up an independent state there.

German Defence Minister Gerhard Stoltenberg said Monday an Iraqi attack on Turkey would be grounds for the NATO alliance, including Bonn, to go to Turkey's aid.

He did not say whether Bonn would send troops if the Gulf war spreads to Turkey. Most Germans oppose direct involvement in the conflict and the issue is hotly debated by Bonn politicians.

## Armitage

(Continued from page 1)

"Helena Cobban, agrees with the official that a specialist on Middle East and Palestinian affairs, restrain was in Israel's own best interest. 'The Israelis are always very savvy about maximising their bargaining position,' she told the Jordan Times. 'They are making a big deal about how they have done this in response to U.S. wishes,' she added."

University of Chicago Professor Rashid Khalidi said Israel was sure to get even more influence over the administration's Middle East policy from now on. "There is less of a chance for an equitable solution" to the Palestinian problem," he said.

Even with Egyptian and Saudi involvement in the US-led coalition, the prospects of a settlement look grim to Khalidi. "They (Egypt and Saudi Arabia) have become even more dependent on Washington and would not be in a position to sacrifice their bilateral relations" for the sake of the Palestinians, he said in a phone interview.

Institute of Palestine Studies Director Philip Mattar warned that a failure to solve the Palestinian question would be detrimental to American interests in the region. "It is in the interest of the U.S. to push Israel to a resolution of the conflict otherwise there would be increased radicalisation of the Palestinians and other Arabs in the region, an increase in religious fundamentalism, and the occupation of Palestinians would continue to be a source of friction" in the years ahead.

He echoed the view that a Middle East peace settlement would depend on the outcome of the war and on whether Egypt and Saudi Arabia — the Arab partners in the U.S.-led coalition — would be in a position to act as pivotal players.

## Missed

(Continued from page 1)

alarm here at reports of allied military success in defeating them.

The general staff source was quoted as saying the U.S.-led coalition forces had used bad weather as an excuse to ground many aircraft while they revived their strategy.

After the Iraqis downed five planes of the multinational coalition in one day, the coalition aircraft stayed on the ground, allegedly because of bad weather.

"In fact it was grounded for a different reason, adjustments were being made in tactics," he said.

The general told Interfax the U.S. Patriot anti-missile system, credited with shooting down Iraqi missiles aimed at Saudi Arabia, was extremely expensive and inefficient, requiring up to five missiles for each incoming target.

Interfax is an independent news service with good contacts in Soviet ministries.

The Iraqi missiles are modified Soviet-made weapons, and many have been reported shot down by the new Patriot system.

## Gorbachev

(Continued from page 1)

Bangladesh to protest attacks on Iraq.

Under pressure from pro-Iraq Muslims in his own community, Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif was visiting Iran, Turkey, Egypt and Syria for meetings.

Non-aligned nations, including Iran, India, Yugoslavia and Algeria, planned to launch a peace initiative, Iran's official Islamic Republic News Agency reported.

At U.N. headquarters, diplomats said a Soviet peace plan and an Indian proposal for a ceasefire stood little chance of success because both required Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait.

Australian Prime Minister Bob Hawke spoke overnight by telephone with his counterparts in Britain, France and Canada and said afterwards that he received no indication Iraq would act to end the war quickly.

Australian Foreign Minister Gareth Evans said Tuesday.

"The calls were aimed at 'touching base and sharing perceptions,'" Mr. Evans said.

Pakistan's Sharif embarked on his mission Tuesday saying the Muslim world was deeply upset at a war which benefitted only Israel.

Mr. Sharif, speaking to reporters before leaving for Tehran, said the war could be halted only if Iraq pulled out of Kuwait.

His mission was to stop hostilities and save both the Iraqi people and the Muslim world from more destruction, he told the independent Pakistan Press International (PPI) news agency.

After Iran, Mr. Sharif plans to visit Turkey and may go on to Egypt, Syria, Jordan and possibly Saudi Arabia.

## Tel Aviv

(Continued from page 1)

first two attacks, the Jewish state agreed to hold off on retaliation against Iraq. But Foreign Minister David Levy suggested Tuesday that Israel might have to respond to another attack.

"Nobody in Israel is interested in being a sacrificial lamb or ... waiting defenceless for gas to choke us," Levy said.

Dozens of ambulances and police and army vehicles rushed to the residential neighbourhood where the missile struck Tuesday. It hit in a neighbourhood of three- and four-storey apartment buildings and damaged dozens of the structures.

The missile struck after sirens sounded at 8:30 p.m. (1830 GMT) throughout Israel warning of a missile attack. The all-clear signal sounded for all regions of the country except the Tel Aviv area about 20 minutes later and for Tel Aviv in just another few minutes.

Spokesman Shai said no chemicals were detected.

Iraq has threatened to fire chemical arms at Israel, but the two previous attacks also involved conventional warheads.

An Israeli cabinet minister said Israel would strike back and ensure its retaliation was effective.

It is not a question of whether Israel will retaliate but when and how. I think that this policy has not changed in spite of tonight's events," Health Minister Ehud Elmoret told British Broadcasting Corporation television.

Earlier on Tuesday, Defence Minister Moshe Arens said Israel would retaliate for Iraqi missile attacks and did not need U.S. permission to do so.

Mr. Olmert said Britain and the United States had shown understanding of what he called Israel's "unique situation" in the Gulf war.

In Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, four Iraqi Scud missiles were blown from the sky Tuesday by allied Patriot rockets fired from the major Saudi air base here, witnesses said.

There were no reports of injuries or damage.

It was the third Scud attack on Saudi Arabia Tuesday.

A barrage of Patriots was fired from the base 320 kilometres south of Kuwait just after darkness fell. The first launch came before air raid sirens sounded.

Witnesses reported hearing the sonic booms of eight Patriot launches and seeing four incoming missiles intercepted in the skies north of the air base.

An all-clear signal was sounded about 20 minutes after the raid.

During the recently stepped-up Iraqi missile firings, U.S. army Patriot batteries have typically fired two of their missiles at each incoming Scud.

The \$1-million Patriots shoot out from the air base and converge on the Scud, causing a dull explosion and sending a flash of light through the sky.

This is the first time that the Patriot has started before air raid sirens were blared, indicating late detection of the incoming missiles.

Air raid sirens also blared Tuesday in the southeastern town of Adana, near the strategic Incirlik air base, sending hundreds of people to a public shelter, witnesses said.

The all-clear siren about 30 minutes later and there was no indication of an attack or explosion, said Ismet Inset, a reporter for the Turkish Daily News.

The semi-official Anatolia news agency quoted local officials as saying the alarm was raised after a warning received from Diyarbakir air base in the east.

Incirlik has been used since the start of the Gulf war by U.S. warplanes on bombing raids against Iraq. The activity has raised fear among residents that Iraq may retaliate.

A Patriot missile was fired by mistake earlier Tuesday from Incirlik and self-destructed above the base, a military spokesman reported.

"If attacked we will respond, and we have been attacked," Mr. Arens told reporters during a visit to pilots who can be airborne 90 seconds after an alert.

Finance Minister Yitzhak Mordechai said meanwhile Israel would ask for at least \$13 billion in extra U.S. aid over five years but denied the request was linked to Israeli restraint in the Gulf war.

Mr. Mordechai said he did not

make any specific aid requests during a meeting with visiting U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger, but he was optimistic Washington would help.

Israel currently receives \$3 billion a year in U.S. economic and military aid.

Israel would ask for at least \$3 billion to meet the cost of the Gulf war in extra military spending, damage from Iraqi missile attacks and losses to the economy, Modai told reporters. These costs would mount as the war went on.

It would also seek a five-year \$10-billion U.S. aid package of grants and loan and investment guarantees to help pay for an influx of Soviet Jewish immigrants.

Israel would need \$20 billion in foreign funds to absorb the one million Soviet Jews expected to arrive by the end of 1992, Mr. Modai said.

"If the United States can give us the first half — and I say not in cash — but by means of a package, then we will succeed in raising the equivalent sum from other sources," Mr. Modai added.

Asked if U.S. aid depended on an Israeli pledge to keep out of the Gulf war, Mr. Modai said: "I can say with certainty and decisiveness that no such promise was given, not concerning this aid or any other aid."

Mr. Modai said Israel had still not received a \$400 million loan guarantee for immigrant housing which Washington promised long ago but delayed over political differences with the Jewish state.

Adam Garfinkel, a political analyst in Washington, said the loan guarantees and other items could be given by the United States as rewards "for doing something or not doing something," in the war.

"Our actions that would be taken in the defence of Israel are really not contingent on receiving permission from anybody," Mr. Arens said.

His comments followed a statement here Monday by Mr. Eagleburger that Washington never questioned Israel's right to respond to Iraqi missile attacks.

But he praised Israel for holding back and not retaliating for at least 11 Scud missiles that hit Israel last Friday and Saturday, injuring 28 people.

Mr. Arens and Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir later met Mr. Eagleburger and discussed the threat of further Iraqi attacks and Israel's economic and security problems stemming from the Gulf war, Mr. Shamir's spokesman Avi Pazner said.

In his comments, Mr. Modai gave a breakdown of estimated direct and indirect costs since the start of the war, totalling \$2.96 billion: — \$400 million in direct military expenses; — \$80 million in damage from the missiles attacks; — \$1 billion in lost output from a four-day shutdown of Israel's economy at the start of the war; — \$1 billion in lost tourism revenues and greater energy costs; — \$180 million in extra insurance costs; — \$100 million in lost income from air and sea transport services; — \$250 million in lost export orders.

Mr. Modai did not elaborate on these figures, which appeared far higher than any previously published estimates.

## Bahrain: Outer ring of the bull's eye in Gulf

BAHRAIN (AP) — Linked by bridge to Saudi Arabia one of Hussein's favourite targets, this tiny nation is forced to react to a war waged in other countries, yet close to home.

When Iraq unleashed Scud missiles during the night, sirens wailed in Bahrain, street lights blinked off, motorists sped home. Government radio urged people to remain calm, stay indoors.

But the missiles went elsewhere — to Saudi Arabia, a short drive over a causeway.

"These Scud missiles are terribly inaccurate," said a military official in Bahrain who asked not to be identified. "We have to alert people about what's going on. We have to take precautions."

Five missiles were fired at the Saudi port city of Dhahran, just 32 kilometres from Bahrain and site of a major U.S. military installation. Four were knocked out by U.S. Patriot anti-missile rockets, U.S. officials said.

The other fell into the waters off Dhahran, close enough for residents to hear and see the blast.

American Shannon O'Grady, a Bahrain resident, said she "heard a popping noise" looked out her window and saw two flashes of light on the night sky.

It was the second such attack on Dhahran. On Friday, another Scud was intercepted by anti-missile rockets.

In each case, Bahrain was placed in an official state of alert.

"We are on alert status, indicating possible imminent danger," government radio warned repeatedly as Scuds headed south.

The emirate — 690 square kilometres — is 490 kilometres from Iraq.

It is a member of the Gulf Cooperation Council, a group of six Arab states allied with the U.S.-led forces fighting Iraq.

U.S. embassy officials this week distributed gas masks to Americans living in Bahrain as a precaution if Iraq begins using missiles equipped with chemical warheads.

On Sunday, a U.S. military DC-9 arrived to take Americans who wanted to leave to an air base in Italy. An estimated 600 of the 1,500 American residents remained.

Recently, a mine washed up on shore of Bahrain's Muharraq island.

Investcorp., a Bahrain-based investment company that owns Saks Fifth Avenue, transferred its assets to Luxembourg in anticipation of the hostilities that broke out Thursday.

The Arab Banking Corporation, the biggest bank in the Arab World, said last Monday it was transferring management of its accounts from Bahrain to London.

## Philippines holds Iraqi envoy's sons

MANILA (R) — Philippine authorities said on Tuesday they had detained two sons of an Iraqi diplomat after seizing a chemical from their home allegedly used in making bombs.

The Iraqi embassy said they were innocent.

Police questioned Husham Abdul Sattar, 26, and his brother Hisham, 25, on suspicion of involvement in last Saturday's attempted bomb attack on a U.S. government library in Manila. The two denied any involvement.

The brothers, students in Manila, are sons of Iraq's ambassador to Somalia, Hikmah Abdul Sattar.

The government Monday ordered the expulsion of Iraqi embassy First Secretary Muwafak Al Ani after intelligence agents said he personally supervised the failed bomb attack on the Thomas Jefferson Library.

An Iraqi embassy official, Kassim Salem Mohammad, said Tuesday Mr. Ani and the Abdul Sattar brothers were innocent and challenged the Philippine government to produce evidence against them.

"We challenge them if they can give evidence but there is no evidence," Mr. Mohammad said in a telephone interview.

Foreign Secretary Raul Manglapus said the evidence did not link anyone higher than Mr. Ani to the bombing incident.

"The government cannot tolerate Iraqis or anyone for that matter bringing their quarrels to our soil," he told reporters.

An Iraqi, Ahmad Ahmad, was killed and another, Abdul Kadhim Saad, wounded when the bomb which police said they

were trying to plant near the U.S. library exploded prematurely.

Intelligence gathered after the blast showed the car used in the attack belonged to Mr. Ani, who was allegedly inside the vehicle, an immigration commission spokeswoman said.

An embassy official said Mr. Ani was at the embassy at the time of the blast.

President Corazon Aquino stressed Tuesday the expulsion of Ani would not affect Manila's ties with Baghdad.

"This is directed at his (Mr. Ani's) person, not at his government or his country," Mrs. Aquino said at a news conference.

Mrs. Aquino, speaking earlier at a military ceremony installing Marine General Rodolfo Biazon as new armed forces chief, told the nation to prepare for the worst from the Gulf crisis.

"We wonder what the spread of the war may do. We pray it does not happen and hope for a swift and merciful end to the war in the Gulf. But to hope for the better we must prepare for the worst," Mrs. Aquino said.

About 400 leftist protesters marched to the presidential palace on Tuesday and denounced Aquino's support for the United States in the Gulf war.

More than 2,000 students and teachers later lit white candles and placed them along the main street of the Makati financial district during a peace demonstration.

The students in school uniform knelt beside the candles and prayed for an end to the Gulf war.

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## Asia travel industry hit hard by Gulf war

BANGKOK, (AP) — The Gulf war has hit Asia's travel industry hard.

Hotels and travel agents say hundreds of tourists and businessmen have been cancelling reservations daily.

Asians as well as Europeans and Americans have decided to stay home because of the war and the risk of terrorism abroad, tourism industry officials said.

In Bangkok, airline offices have been guarded by armed police since Saturday after Western embassies announced they had credible reports of possible terrorist attacks.

Saturday a bomb exploded near a U.S.-run library in Manila, and Friday a bomb was discovered at the residence of the U.S. ambassador to Indonesia.

The war is emptying hotel rooms across the continent.

An official of the 884-room hotel Okura Hotel in Tokyo said 600 room reservations for January and February were cancelled Thursday, when the war broke out, and another 700 Friday. Usually, only about 30 rooms are cancelled daily, said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

In Thailand, where tourism is

a top foreign exchange earner and has substantially boosted the country's spectacular economic growth in recent years, many hotels reported numerous cancellations.

Piattana Rithdee, assistant reservations manager at the five-star Dusit Thai Hotel, said it had had some 100 cancellations daily since Friday, mostly from Japanese.

In Seoul, the five-star Western Chosun and Hotel Lotte said occupancy was low.

In Taipei, both the Hilton International and Lai Lai Sheraton Hotel reported slight drops in occupancy rates after some foreigners cancelled reservations.

The city's Grand Hyatt Hotel said it anticipated a decrease in occupancy if the war was lengthy. A leading travel agency said 10 per cent of its foreign tourists had cancelled trips in the past four days, including more than 300 Japanese.

The Hotel Conrad in Hong Kong said its occupancy rate had fallen by as much as 20 per cent after the postponement or cancellation of U.S. corporate bookings.

In the Philippines, where tourism has already suffered badly from domestic unrest, many can-

cancellations were also reported. Occupancy rates in five-star hotels had fallen below 50 per cent, said Nora Saba, spokeswoman of the Manila Garden Hotel.

Major Japanese firms had cancelled bookings for their executives, she said.

Singapore travel agents reported cancellations worth at least \$5.7 million after Singaporeans postponed or scrubbed trips abroad, the Business Times reported.

Airline offices in the city reports about 10 per cent cancellations and some travel agents said business was 20 per cent to 30 per cent down.

However, most major hotels in Singapore said they were doing well.

Some officials saw a good side.

Malaysia's tourism minister, Sabbaruddin Chik, said he expected more Japanese and East Asian tourists would vacation in Malaysia instead of the West, where there was the threat of terrorism.

A tour operator, Daniel C.Y. Yong, said some Japanese tourists were cancelling bookings to Europe and instead going to Asian destinations.

## G-7 cancels more than 33% of Polish, Egyptian public debts

PARIS (AP) — The seven leading industrialized nations have agreed to cancel more than one-third of the public debts of Poland and Egypt since both countries are special cases, French Finance Minister Pierre Bérégovoy said Tuesday.

Bérégovoy, returning from the Group of Seven meeting of finance ministers in New York, refused to reveal the exact figure, saying only that it was more than 33 per cent but less than the 80 per cent asked for by Polish President Lech Walesa.

The treatment of the debt will be "of the same order for the two countries," to be decided by the Paris Club of creditor nations. "Egypt and Poland are indebted nations which find themselves in particular situations," the minister said. "Poland is the first country to have opened the way to a market economy, and Egypt is engaged in the Gulf conflict."

Bérégovoy said the action went beyond what had been agreed to for the two countries by the international monetary community.

## Shippers rethink sailing to Gulf

DUBAI (R) — War and soaring insurance rates are forcing shippers to reassess service to the Gulf, which supplies over half the world's oil, but so far the impact on cargo traffic has been small.

Merchant vessels still ply the Gulf despite a threat of mines and missile attacks and war-risk premiums that make calls in the Gulf unprofitable, shipping agents and port authorities say.

A few shippers diverted cargo and container vessels to ports outside the strategic waterway to avoid insurance rates that jumped several days ahead of war on Jan. 17, but most shipping lines are still studying options.

"Most lines we are dealing with are maintaining a full service to the Gulf," said one Dubai shipping agent. "We are calling at all Gulf ports," said an official at the United Arab Shipping Company (UASC), the largest bulk cargo operator in the Gulf, owned by the government of Saudi Arabia, Oman, Qatar and Bahrain.

The war has boosted interest in two United Arab Emirates (UAE) ports on the Arabian Sea, just outside the Gulf war-risk zone, and in the Omani port of Muscat.

"We have been deluged with inquiries," said Alistair Arthur, of the UAE port of Fujairah. "Shippers are asking if they can't deposit cargo bound for the Gulf for transshipment by road or feeder vessels."

So far the shipper's dilemma is more economic than military. The General Council of British Shipping Thursday assessed the air and mine threat to shipping

## War closes Asia's Gulf air routes, forces large losses

SYDNEY (R) — The Gulf war is hitting Asian airlines hard, with fuel prices up and flights to the Middle East either cancelled or re-routed around the war zone.

"The near-term outlook for the airline industry is bleak," said Malaysian Airline System BHD chief Abdul Aziz Rahman in Kuala Lumpur.

Malaysia is one of 14 airlines in the region forced to cancel flights to the Gulf and re-route European services to avoid playing over the fighting.

But if the war goes beyond a month it may be forced to cut more services, cease recruitment and stop buying new equipment to cut costs, Abdul Aziz said.

Japan Airlines Co. Ltd. said it had received 700 cancellations since bombing of Iraq began Jan. 17.

A spokesman in Tokyo said 500 cancellations were for trips to Europe and the United States in the past week and all Middle East tours had been cancelled.

The industry suffered a "double punch" from war and higher fuel costs, he said.

The spokesman reported one benefit from the conflict.

He said the airline has attracted customers away from American or British competitors as Japanese firms urge staff to avoid those airlines for fear of terrorist attacks.

Air India's cancelled flights to the Gulf, routes which represent 40 per cent of state-owned company's services, will cost the airline dearly.

"The Gulf war will put tremendous strain on the airline's finances. It had been a very profitable sector for Air India," an airline spokesman in New Delhi said.

Air India has re-routed flights to Europe over Pakistan, Afghanistan and the Soviet Union — raising its fuel costs — and dropped services to Sydney and Hong Kong.

"Our belts, already taut, will be tightened another notch," said Singapore Air Lines Ltd. Chairman J.Y. Pillay in a statement.

Gulf tensions and weaker world economic growth have trimmed the airline's usually rapid passenger traffic growth rate to 3.6 per cent in the year to November compared with the annual target of between eight and 10 per cent.

"The good times are over, temporarily at least," said the airline's managing director, Cheong Cheong Kong, earlier this month. The airline expects profit for the year to March to be well below the previous year's recorded \$686 million.

Pakistani airports are handling an extra 58 flights a week re-routed through the country to avoid the war, and daily over-

flights have jumped by 22 per cent.

Among those re-routing are France's UTA, Czechoslovakia's CSA and Royal Brunei.

Pakistan International Airlines has cancelled services to its 10 Gulf destinations, representing 30 per cent of revenue. Higher fuel prices will cost it an extra \$55 million a year, and an additional \$27 million in higher insurance charges.

Bangladesh's Biman Airline said cancelled Gulf flights will lose it \$42 million a year. A spokesman in Dhaka said higher fuel prices will cost it \$37 million annually and more than \$1 million in extra insurance.

Estate-owned Philippine Airlines has cancelled flights to Riyadh, Doha and Dubai from Jan. 9, and scaled down flights to Europe to twice a week from six as a result of the war.

"The Middle East is one of our lucrative routes," said spokesman Rolando Estabillo, with Philippine overseas workers as their principal customers. Tens of thousands of Filipinos worked in Kuwait and other parts of the Gulf.

Australia's state-owned Qantas Airways Ltd. stopped flights to the Middle East shortly after Canberra committed a naval force to the Gulf. All of its 38 European routes now fly over Iran and the Soviet Union.

The extra fuel is costing the airline an additional \$62,000 per week and adding a 25-minute delay, a spokeswoman said. Cancellations have so far not been significant.

Bangkok airport officials said Far East flights had fallen 15 to 20 per cent and saw a trend in tour group cancellations is growing. Thai International has cancelled its three flights to the Gulf. Irregular landing times caused by rescheduling have stranded passengers.

South Korea's flag carrier Korean Air Lines suspended flights to the Gulf on Jan. 15, and the government has granted a seven per cent increase for international airline fares.

Hong Kong's Cathay Pacific now flies over the Soviet Union, China and Mongolia, and is considering a seven per cent increase in fares to cover extra fuel costs. It ceased all Gulf routes shortly before Jan. 15.

## Group of Seven agree to keep markets stable in Gulf war

NEW YORK (R) — The sluggish world economy should pick up later this year as long as the Gulf war does not send financial markets into chaos and inflation stays in check, the leading industrial nations said Monday.

The optimistic outlook for the world economy — at a time of Middle East war and a U.S. recession — came after the Group of Seven (G-7) industrial

nations wrapped up a two-day meeting on international economic and financial issues.

"Expansion of the world economy continues, and the pace of activity could be expected to pick up later this year," the G-7 said in a communique.

Growth remains particularly strong in Germany and Japan, they said, despite the inflation fears and blow to confidence

inflicted by the Gulf crisis.

But finance ministers and central bank governors from the seven top industrial nations — the United States, Germany, Japan, Britain, France, Canada and Italy — acknowledged that the rosy scenario could prove wrong if the war triggers higher oil prices and jitters in financial markets.

## Gulf shipping risk reportedly diminished

BAHRAIN (R) — The United States navy Tuesday told shippers the overall risk in Gulf waters has diminished since the outbreak of war with Iraq.

In an advisory to the commercial maritime industry the U.S. navy maritime liaison office in Bahrain said mines had been sighted and destroyed in the northern Gulf and that shipping should proceed in some Gulf areas in daylight and with caution.

However, the risk of mines in the western and southern Gulf was minimal, the navy said.

On Jan. 19 the U.S. navy warned merchant ships they entered the Gulf at their own risk after confirmed sightings of mines off Bahrain and reported sightings further south.

In Tuesday's statement the navy said, "no attacks on allied naval or merchant shipping have occurred nor are any expected."

It said Iraq was known to have sown mines off Kuwait, some of which had broken free of their moorings. Most had been sighted north of latitude 27.30 North (about 90 nautical miles north of Bahrain) and destroyed.

Four had been confirmed south of that latitude and all had been destroyed by United States or allied forces.

Sixty-eight allied ships were in the Gulf maintaining an alert to detect any floating mines, the navy said.

While the possibility of a commercial vessel "encountering some danger" associated with the Gulf war could not be discounted, the advisory said naval ships were there to help.

United States and allied naval and air forces are positioned and armed to provide protection from air, surface and mine threats," it said.

"Commercial vessel movement through the Arabian Gulf will be monitored by U.S. navy ships. The overall risk level has diminished since the outbreak of hostilities," the advisory concluded.

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### AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Tuesday, January 22, 1991	
Central Bank official rates	
	Buy Sell
U.S. dollar	289.0 289.0
Pound Sterling	129.8 129.8
Deutsche mark	445.6 445.6
Swiss franc	331.2 331.2
French franc	131.1 131.1
Japanese yen (for 100)	304.9 304.9
Dutch guilder	395.2 395.2
Swedish crown	119.1 119.1
Italian lira (for 100)	59.3 59.3
Belgian franc (for 10)	216.2 216.2

### LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.	
	One Sterling
One U.S. dollar	1.9540/50
	1.1590/1600
	1.4890/4900
	1.6760/70
	1.2525/30
	30.64/69
	5.0610/60
	1119/1120
	131.30/40
	5.5700/50
	5.8240/90
	5.7300/50
One ounce of gold	381.30/381.80
	U.S. dollar
Canadian dollar	
Deutsche marks	
Dutch guilders	
Swiss francs	
French francs	
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Japanese yen	
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Norwegian crowns	
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Show: 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.  
Friday & Sunday extra show at 11:00 a.m.

Cinema **RAINBOW** Tel: 625155  
**HONEY I SHRUNK THE KIDS**  
Show: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30 p.m.

Cinema **PHILADELPHIA** Tel: 634144  
**Two Moon Junction**  
Show: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30

Cinema **PLAZA** Tel: 699238  
Nadia Al Jundi, Farouq Fihawi in  
**THE TYRANNY OF A WOMAN (Arabic)**  
Show: 12:00, 3:00, 5:15, 7:15, 9:15

## Kuwait lends Moscow \$1b

MOSCOW (R) — Kuwait Tuesday granted a \$1 billion credit line to the Soviet Union, which has backed the occupied emirate against Iraq in the Gulf war.

A Kuwaiti embassy statement said the seven-year general purpose loan facility, signed in Moscow, was made to the Soviet foreign economic affairs bank Vnesheconombank.

Abdullah Al Ghabdli, chairman of the Kuwait Foreign Trading Contracting and Investment Co., said the loan was a reflection of the excellent relations between the two countries.

The embassy quoted Tomas Alibegov, first deputy chairman of Vnesheconombank, as saying the loan was on favourable terms. It was not the first time the Kuwaiti trading co. was given credit to Vnesheconombank, a \$300 million loan was signed last May, nearly three months before Iraqi troops occupied Kuwait.

President Mikhail Gorbachev, in a reversal of cold war era policy, has backed the U.S.-led alliance seeking to force Iraq from Kuwait. But he is still searching for a negotiated peace.

Iraq was traditionally a close ally of Moscow, receiving billions of dollars worth of Soviet arms, while Kuwait was allied to the West.

## AMMAN BACCALAUREATE SCHOOL ANNOUNCES THE FOLLOWING:

- Due to the current situation and unless otherwise stated by the Ministry of Education, the school will resume teaching after the winter holiday on Monday, January 28, 1991 and not on Sunday January 27, 1991 as was scheduled.
- The mock IGCSE exams which were scheduled on January 27, 1991 will be held a week after school starts.
- The mock IB exams which were scheduled on February 9, 1991 will be held two weeks after school starts.
- The teaching staff are expected to be in school at 9.00 a.m. on Sunday January 27, 1991.

## Prolonged Gulf war could sap Japan's economic vitality

TOKYO (R) — Japan could find its economic health endangered if the Gulf war drags on, forcing domestic interest rates higher and choking off economic growth.

"Should the Gulf war continue for a long period, and oil prices climb, we are going to see interest rates higher," said Teizo Taya, chief economist at Daiwa Institute of Research Ltd.

International pressure on Japan to pay for part of the war and possible higher oil prices pose the biggest threats to interest rate stability, economists said.

The spectre of higher rates comes at a time when some economists believe Japan's economy is slowing too quickly.

U.S. Defence Secretary Dick Cheney said Monday the campaign against Iraq could last for weeks or months, while some military analysts said the allied air attacks alone could last to the end of January.

The price tag for prolonged war is enough to send even pro-war U.S. congressional hawks into shock.

Economists estimate the intense air strikes on targets in Iraq and Kuwait alone are costing the United States upwards of \$500 million a day.

Many economists here said Japan's economy could start to show the strains of war after only two months of fighting.

Japan has already paid \$2 billion to aid multinational forces in the Middle East and has pledged an additional \$2 billion to help Gulf countries hard hit by United Nations sanctions against Iraq.

That could be just the beginning of Japan's efforts to help the United States fund the Gulf war, analysts said.

While Tokyo has yet to formally announce a figure, par-

liamentary sources said Monday that Tokyo is about to contribute at least one trillion yen (\$7.6 billion) towards the deployment of the U.S.-led allied forces.

Senior government officials here have said taxes — either on income, corporations or petrol, or a combination of the three — should be raised to meet future commitments, but economists doubt that alone will suffice.

Taxes might raise only half the one trillion yen, said Kazuko Mizuno, an economist at Barings Securities (Japan) Ltd. It is unlikely that tax revenue can provide a significant amount of funds if Japan is called on to make even more contributions to the Gulf effort down the road, he added.

Further U.S. funding requests could force Japan to borrow from banking and issue short-term government bonds, and the resulting heavy demand on local debt markets could put upward pressure on domestic interest rates, economists said.

At the very least, a widely anticipated easing of Japanese rates could be delayed, they said.

Financial markets have been rife with speculation that Japan could cut its official discount rate, now six per cent, in the second quarter of this calendar year.

"If Japan is forced to turn to issuing bonds to pay its share of the Gulf burden, interest rates, especially for long term borrowing, could begin to creep up," said Mizuno at Barings.

Paying for the Gulf build-up may only be one factor threatening Japan's interest rate stability. The longer the Gulf war rages, the greater the risk to world oil supplies and of a surge in inflation, especially if production facilities in the Middle East damaged, economists said.

الى جميع مواطني البير في المملكة الأردنية الهاشمية  
A todos los peruanos residentes en Jordania que se comuniquen o pasen por el consulado del Peru en Amman, al telefono 685882, o a la direccion: Avenida de la Universidad Jordana / Centro Del Libro Jordano / Tercer piso.  
Para cualquier informacion.



# Gorbachev, Latvian president discuss army assault in Riga

RIGA, USSR (AP) — President Mikhail Gorbachev met Tuesday with Latvia's president a day after the Baltic Republic created a volunteer defence force to protect public buildings against possible attack by Soviet forces.

Latvia's parliament voted Monday in Riga, the Latvian capital, to form a volunteer home guard and authorities bolstered defences at public buildings hours after Soviet commandos staged a pre-dawn assault that killed five people and wounded 10.

TASS published a statement Monday from the Soviet prosecutor's office urging republican governments to disband "illegal armed units," a reference to the self-defence groups.

The statement also instructed the republics to suspend all legislation that contradicts the Soviet constitution.

In Moscow, Gorbachev invited Latvian President Vytas Landsbergis to talk about the situation and they met for 2½ hours, according to the Latvian government office in the Soviet capital.

Soviet parliamentarian Anatoly Denisov told a news conference in Moscow Monday that Gorbachev may declare presidential rule in Latvia after meetings with leaders of the Baltic republics.

But Lolita Nikitorova, a

spokesman for the Latvian office in Moscow, said the possibility of imposing presidential rule did not come up at the Gorbachev-Gorbunovs meeting. Gorbunovs issued a statement saying the Latvian leadership is against presidential rule.

Gorbachev and Estonian President Arnold Ruitel met Monday and agreed on the need for talks between top-level delegations, Estonian Radio reported.

Gorbachev and Soviet military leaders also promised Ruitel that military force would not be used in Estonia, the independent Baltic News Service reported.

Lithuanian President Vytautas Landsbergis told his republic's parliament that the Baltic republics must be prepared to come to each others' aid.

He accused the Kremlin of "terrorism against democracy."

Supporters of Latvia's independence government reinforced concrete barricades that protect the front of the parliament in Riga, the republic's capital. They propped sandbags in front of the building's windows.

The Latvian parliament, meeting in emergency session, approved a decree Monday calling on the government to establish a self-defence unit of draft-age volunteers. The decree takes effect immediately.

A self-defence unit has been

held up in the parliament building in the Lithuanian capital, Vilnius, following an assault on Jan. 13 by the Red Army on the republic's broadcast station in the city. Fourteen people were killed in that attack.

U.S. officials have also been critical of the crackdown but have taken no action against the Kremlin. Speaking to reporters in Washington, President George Bush said Monday, "I would again appeal to the Soviet leaders to resist using force."

The United States has never recognised the forcible incorporation of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia into the Soviet Union in 1940. The Baltic republics were independent states between the two world wars.

The Kremlin has been pressuring the Baltics to nullify independence declarations passed last year by their democratically elected parliaments. Pro-Soviet factions in the republics have urged direct rule by Gorbachev.

Leaders of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia are calling on the United States to pressure the Soviet Union into ending its crackdown on the three republics, diplomatic sources say.

The officials were taking their case to U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and to Capitol Hill Tuesday amid almost daily expressions of strong administra-

tion concern over Moscow's policies towards the Baltic states.

Among other recommendations, Baker was expected to hear an appeal to cancel next month's scheduled summit in Moscow between Bush and Gorbachev.

Baker was meeting with Dainis Ivars, a vice president of Latvia-Bronius Kuzmickas, a vice president of Lithuania and Endel Lippmaa, Estonian minister without portfolio.

In preliminary discussions with U.S. officials, the Baltic leaders have hinted that the United States should use economic pressure on the Soviet Union in order to persuade the Kremlin to respect their sovereignty.

Kuzmickas of Lithuania said Monday he would ask Baker to postpone the U.S.-Soviet summit unless the Kremlin withdraws the special troops it sent into the Baltic republics.

White House press secretary Marlin Fitzwater said Monday that the U.S. government and its NATO allies were considering sanctions against the Soviet Union in response to the situation in the Baltics, but had not made a decision.

The United States only recently dropped longtime barriers to U.S.-Soviet trade in an attempt to help relieve the economic crunch that has made food and



consumer goods almost impossible to find in some Soviet cities.

## 2 policemen killed in Georgia

Meanwhile, two policemen died and one person was injured in weekend street battles in Soviet Georgia, TASS news agency said Monday.

Shooting broke out in Tskhinvali, the capital of South Ossetia, and lasted an hour and a half, TASS said. It gave no other details.

South Ossetia wants to secede from Georgia, whose nationalist-controlled parliament removed its autonomous status.

Georgia has rejected an order by Gorbachev to withdraw its police force from the region.

## U.S., S. Korea to hold war games despite Gulf

SEOUL (R) — The United States and South Korea will begin their annual Team Spirit military manoeuvres this week but on a reduced scale because of inter-Korean talks and the Gulf war, newspapers said Tuesday.

The Hankook Ilbo and the Korea Times, quoting Korean government officials, said Team Spirit would include troops airlifted directly from the United States but the size of the U.S. contingent had yet to be decided.

A U.S. military spokesman had not comment on the reports. Diplomatic and official sources had anticipated weeks ago the U.S. contingent would be reduced because of commitments in the Gulf.

U.S. and South Korean spokesmen have said the annual exercises, which last year involved 200,000 troops, are defensive and aimed at preventing another North Korean invasion of the South.

But North Korea has called

Team Spirit a rehearsal for a Southern invasion of the North and has in the past used the exercise as an excuse to break off contacts with the South.

The prime ministers of both Koreas are scheduled to meet in Pyongyang for a fourth session of talks Feb. 25. The officials, the newspapers reported, said the meeting was a consideration in the decision to reduce the scale of the exercise.

Contacts between the neighbours, still technically at war from the 1950-53 conflict, have increased since the prime ministers first met in early September last year in the highest level contact since the peninsula was divided in 1945.

While no significant agreements, other than a decision to continue meeting, have resulted, South Korea wants the dialogue to continue and has recently made the unification minister a deputy prime minister to demonstrate the importance placed on reunification.

## Column 8

### Mrs Bush back on her feet

WASHINGTON (AP) — Barbara Bush began to walk without assistance as she returned from Camp David, eight days after suffering a minor leg fracture there. The first lady relied on a wheelchair for several days last week after injuring her leg while snow sledding with grandchildren on Jan. 13. The fracture of her left fibula bone did not require a cast, however, and Mrs. Bush showed no sign of the injury as she stepped off the Marine One helicopter with President George Bush. They were accompanied by Thomas Foley, speaker of the House of Representatives, and his wife, Heather, overnight guests at the mountaintop retreat. Mrs. Bush's doctors said last week it would take five to six weeks for a complete recovery.

### U.S. firms cut ads during Gulf coverage

SYDNEY (R) — Some of Australia's biggest companies are distancing their products from the grim images of the Gulf war by halting television advertisement during coverage of the fighting. Their actions will put further pressure on Australia's three commercial television networks, two of them already struggling financially, a media analyst said Monday. Coca-Cola and McDonalds are among the companies to shy away from advertising. Coca-Cola South Pacific, a subsidiary of the American soft drinks maker, said its action follows a directive from company headquarters in Atlanta that all operations worldwide reschedule advertising. "We have slightly readjusted our advertising scheduling and this is to distance our brands from those rather grim images," Kathy Walsh, spokeswoman of the Australian subsidiary, told Reuters. "Where they (television network) cross to Gulf coverage we have asked them not to run our ads," she said. McDonald's (Australia), an autonomous unit of the American fast food giant, is also trying to distance itself from the Gulf war. "We are talking about issues of taste and sensitivity. McDonald's must take a position on these sorts of things," said Gerry Grace, vice-president of marketing. The company has asked that advertising be placed during normal programming though the final decision would be left to television networks, according to the official. Media research companies say there has been a marked reduction in television advertising during the Gulf coverage.

### Teenager's heart is in wrong place

TORONTO, Canada (AP) — Pugalina Suganabalayogan's heart is in the wrong place. That's why doctors want the 16-year-old Sri Lankan girl to come to Canada for corrective surgery. A Toronto church is trying to raise some of the \$30,000 the operation would cost. "This is an extreme case," said Christine Jackson, a parishioner with Fairview Church of God. Throughout her young life, the girl would turn blue or faint if she cried, but her parents never suspected she had a rare heart condition, Jackson said. When doctors took X-rays after she developed a fever two years ago, they discovered her heart was reversed and was on the right side of her chest. "It's a very dangerous thing for her to live with," Jackson said. "She could die without an operation to correct this." Money raised by the church congregation will be added to money already collected in Sri Lanka, including about \$6,000 donated Sri Lanka President Ramasinghe Premadasa.

### Spy camera could fetch over \$10,000

LONDON (R) — A tiny spy camera mounted in a gold finger ring which experts believe was used by Soviet secret agents could fetch more than \$10,000 at a sale in London. The camera will come up for sale at Christie's auctioneers on March 14. Owned by an anonymous East European, the camera has a lens disguised as a central stone and is in working order, using cut-down conventional film to produce eight pictures. Photography expert William White said ring cameras were developed after smoking bans in offices reduced the usefulness of spy cameras disguised as cigarette packets or lighters. White attributed the ring camera to the Soviet Union's KGB secret police.

## EC postpones aid talks with Moscow

STRASBOURG, France (R) — The European Community (EC) has postponed talks with the Soviet Union on economic and technical cooperation in protest at violence by Soviet troops in Latvia and Lithuania.

EC External Affairs Commissioner Frans Andriessen said the meeting of Community and Soviet officials, which was due to take place in Brussels on Jan. 24-25, would be suspended.

"The (EC's executive) commission has decided to postpone that meeting," Andriessen said in an emergency debate in the European Parliament.

Postponing the talks could hold up cooperation projects with this Soviet Union worth millions of dollars.

The commission earlier condemned what it called military action against unarmed civilians

in Latvia's capital, Riga, Sunday in which four people were killed. After a similar crackdown in Lithuania earlier this month the foreign ministers of the 12 EC member states threatened to halt cooperation if such violence continued.

Andriessen backed the ministers' declaration but stopped short of calling for the immediate suspension of aid.

"We agree with the conclusions of political cooperation that any extension or continuation of military intervention must and shall give rise to serious questions about the implementation of community cooperation with the Soviet Union," he said.

Luxembourg's Foreign Minister Jacques Poos, who chairs the EC council of ministers, said top political officials from the 12 EC

countries would discuss how best to respond to the latest bloodshed when they met in Brussels.

Denmark has called for economic help to be halted and diplomats say Britain favours putting technical aid on ice.

Officials have said the EC will not go back on a pledge to give the Soviet Union emergency food aid worth 250 million ECUS (\$350 million) of technical aid agreed by EC leaders in Rome last month could be blocked.

The EC-Soviet joint committee, which meets under a 1989 bilateral cooperation agreement, was due to look at ways of spending this money.

A question mark also remains over a further 500 million ECUS (\$680 million) in credits to fill the empty shelves of Soviet shops.

## Nakayama begins talks in Moscow

MOSCOW (AP) — Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama held three hours of talks with Foreign Minister Alexander Bessmertnykh Tuesday on topics ranging from the war in the Gulf to the upcoming visit of President Mikhail Gorbachev, the TASS news agency said.

TASS quoted Deputy Foreign Minister Igor Rogachev as saying Japan and the Soviet Union were in complete accord regarding the Gulf conflict and a joint statement on the war would most likely be issued at the end of Nakayama's visit.

The meeting was Bessmertnykh's first with a foreign counterpart since he took over the Foreign Ministry portfolio on Jan. 15 after the resignation of Eduard Shevardnadze on Dec. 20.

Nakayama "welcomed our new foreign minister very warmly as one of the architects of the new political thinking in Soviet foreign policy, in particular Soviet American relations," TASS said.

## S. African whites admit killing blacks

DURBAN, South Africa (R) — White extremists have admitted mowing down seven blacks in one of South Africa's worst racial killings, saying they were motivated by outrage at a rare attack on whites by knife-wielding blacks.

David Petrus Botha, 41, and Adrian Smuts, 38, appearing at a preliminary hearing before a magistrate in this Indian Ocean port Monday, pleaded guilty to the murder of seven blacks and the attempted murder of 27 on Oct. 9 last year.

Gunsman sprayed a bus with automatic weapons fire in Durban only hours after a group of blacks led by a man with a history of mental illness went on a stabbing spree along the city's beachfront, wounding eight whites.

Seven people were killed and 18 were wounded out of the 34 people aboard the bus.

Television footage showed

## 13 injured by Delhi bombs

NEW DELHI (R) — Two powerful bombs exploded in Delhi Tuesday, injuring at least 13 people, shattering windows at police headquarters and destroying more than 10 vehicles.

Police at the scenes of both explosions said they suspected Sikh militants fighting for an independent homeland in the northern state of Punjab to be blame.

A young Sikh was arrested, along with the taxi driver who had brought him to the police headquarters, as he fled after a bomb exploded in the car park.

"I saw him running away. I went after him and caught him," policeman Balman Singh said.

He said the young Sikh was injured, but had no details on how badly.

All the windows in the bottom

two floors of the headquarters building were shattered as were many in the upper three stories. In the car park, the blast mangled 10 vehicles which burst into flames.

The bomb at a large court complex in the old city of Delhi was equally powerful and exploded at about the same time.

"I thought that the whole building was coming down," said Clerk Ram Gopal, one of the injured.

The attacks occurred amid a security alert in Delhi for possible attacks against countries of the U.S.-led multinational force fighting Iraq in the Gulf.

Security forces were placed on alert after a bomb exploded in an office of a local American Airlines agent in the heart of New Delhi Friday, a day after the Gulf war broke out.

## Norway's new king sworn in

OSLO, Norway (AP) — King Harald V has sworn to uphold the country's constitution in a solemn ceremony affirming his status as a figurehead monarch.

Harald, 53, became the third king of modern Norway following the Thursday death of his 87-year-old father, Olav V, from a heart attack. Olav, born in Britain, had been the world's oldest ruling monarch.

In a simple, 20-minute ceremony in parliament, Harald accepted constitutional limits on his power, which is largely ceremonial.

"I promise and swear to rule the Kingdom of Norway in keeping with its constitution and law, so help me God," said Harald. He wore a dress military uniform.

Norway does not allow coronations and Olav V. was blessed in a church ceremony after he assumed the throne in 1957. Officials said it has not been decided whether Harald will go through a similar ritual.

The king was accompanied by Queen Sonja, a commoner whom he married in 1968. Olav had hoped his son would marry a noblewoman and it took Harald nine years to win his father's permission to marry Sonja.

Sonja, 53, is Norway's first queen since the wife of Harald's grandfather, Queen Maud, died in 1938. Maud was a British princess.

Following the ceremony, the royal couple walked up a red carpet to a pair of gilded thrones at the front of the hastily rearranged legislative chambers.

Hundreds of Norwegians had gathered outside to catch a glimpse of them.

But many more maintained a vigil of mourning for Olav, a popular monarch often called "the people's king."

The national radio network NRK estimated that tens of thousands of Norwegians had visited the palace park since Olav's death was announced. They blanketed the snow with candles, flowers, flags, portraits of Olav and parting messages, sometimes scrawled in crayon by children.

The news agency said the two ministers had "a thorough discussion of the situation in Europe, as well as in Asia and the Pacific, Soviet-American relations and, naturally the Gulf crisis."

Nakayama was scheduled to meet with Gorbachev Tuesday to prepare for the president's April visit to Japan, the first by a Soviet leader.

Before leaving Tokyo, Nakayama said one of his goals during the Soviet visit was to make some headway in solving the Kuril Islands territorial dispute that has snarled relations between the two countries since 1915.

At the Yalta conference after World War II, the Soviet Union was given control of the island,

## Peking orders activists to leave China

PEKING (AP) — Six activists left China Tuesday, ordered out after they sought to attend the trials of pro-democracy demonstrators.

Activists say the government is trying the dissidents now, while the Gulf war diverts world attention away from China, to avoid international criticism.

Meanwhile, six students from Hong Kong began efforts to focus attention on human rights.

One of the university students, Fong Tak Ho, said the group went to the Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office in Peking seeking to attend the trials.

But Fong said the students were given no information and have not decided whether to pursue efforts to meet with Chinese officials after learning that the other activists were ordered out of the country.

The human rights activists who were ordered to leave China were detained for about five hours Monday and questioned about their activities in China.

Norman Quan, a Chinese citizen now living in Los Angeles, was told he had violated the laws of China. Five other activists from Britain, Canada and the Netherlands were accused of engaging in activities incompatible with their status as tourists.

All six were told to leave China by 6 p.m. (1000 GMT) Tuesday. They took a noon flight to Hong Kong.

The group had made several trips to the Peking City Court where the democracy activists are being tried. Court officials told them foreigners had no right to attend trials.

They also met with officials of the national legislature, the Justice Ministry and the Public Security Bureau to express their concern that trials be fair and open.

## Baltic crackdown darkens Japan view of Moscow

By Mark O'Neill  
Reuters

TOKYO — Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama left Japan for Moscow Monday with the Baltic crackdown and fear of chaos in the Soviet Union darkening hopes of political friendship and better economic ties.

Nakayama is due to meet President Mikhail Gorbachev and new Foreign Minister Alexander Bessmertnykh, with whom he is likely to sign a joint declaration calling for an Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait and a settlement of other Middle East issues, including the Palestinian question.

The trip, originally scheduled for Jan. 2-5, was put back after the shock resignation last month of Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze.

One Japanese official said some in the government wanted it postponed again due to the Gulf crisis, but Nakayama insisted on the trip because of the import-

ance of Gorbachev's visit to Japan in April, the first by a Soviet head of state.

"Many in Japan have great hopes of Gorbachev, that he is different from all previous Soviet leaders and will solve the islands issue. That is why Nakayama is going," he said.

Japan refuses to sign a peace treaty until Moscow returns four islands off north Japan it occupied in 1945.

But the crackdown in the Baltics and the increasing polarisation of Soviet politics have made less likely a treaty and the economic benefits that would result from it.

"Since the end of last year, the Soviet presidential system has been strengthened, leading to anxieties that the conservatives are gaining power again," said Kazuhiko Togo, head of the Soviet Division of the Foreign Ministry.

"We must be cautious on aid to the Soviet Union because of the

political and economic chaos," he told the Nihon Keizai Shimbun newspaper Sunday.

Events in the past two months have borne out this caution, voiced by Japan at the Houston summit of seven leading industrialised countries last June. Tokyo argues that Moscow must first return the islands and reform its Stalinist economy.

In December, Japan announced its first official aid to the Soviet Union but said after the Lithuanian crackdown the assistance would be suspended if Moscow rowed back on reforms.

"It cannot be denied that perestroika is degenerating," said the Asahi Shimbun in an editorial Sunday on the increasing conservatism of the Soviet government.

"We have grave concern about the political crisis of a neighbouring country," it said.

This anxiety is affecting firms considering whether to invest in the Soviet Union, as Moscow clearly wishes. At economic talks

next week, the Soviet side will propose 13 projects for joint investment, most in developing natural resources.

"We cannot be optimistic about expanding Japan-Soviet ties, said Sotobu, a Japanese Association for Trade with the Soviet Union and East Europe.

"The chaos of the Soviet economy and the desperate lack of foreign exchange poses a great risk for Japanese industry. The planning economy has collapsed, but the market economy to replace it has not appeared, resulting in chaos," it said.

One trader said this chaos meant it was not clear who owned assets — the Soviet state, the republic or the local government — and firms did not know with whom to negotiate.

"The memory of what happened after the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in 1979 is still strong. The West froze its relations with the Soviet Union after a decision taken by the hardline leadership," he said.